

Prince Char.  
buys friend  
\$39,000 ring

### Arab states meet in Cairo to discuss terrorism

CAIRO (R) — Representatives of 16 Arab countries will meet in Cairo on Monday to discuss greater cooperation in fighting terrorism, a statement by Arab Interior Ministers Council said on Sunday. It said the three-day meeting will be headed by Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi and will spell out a "code of conduct on terrorism" which was broadly approved by the council in January. The council, a branch of the Cairo-based Arab League, will discuss "confronting the terrorist phenomenon which is a growing threat to the whole world...and exposes the Arab region to numerous dangers." Under the code, approved in Tunis in January, the states pledged that "their lands will not be used to plan or carry out (terrorist) acts, and to hunt the terrorist elements, ban their infiltration through their borders and their residency." The code also bans any state from receiving, housing, training, arming or financing "terrorists."

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### Regent congratulates King on Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein, congratulating him on the occasion of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, and wishing him continued good health and happiness. On Saturday the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs held a major celebration at King Abdullah Mosque to mark the occasion. The celebration was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, who deputised for the King. Also attending the celebration were cabinet ministers, deputies and senior civil and military officials. On the occasion, King Hussein received congratulatory cables from Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, acting Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Tarawneh, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Strour, presidents of the Court of Cassation and Higher Court of Justice, the King's advisor for Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and senior civil and military officials, in addition to the Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army.

## Kurds say Iranian troops launch incursion into N. Iraq

ERBIL, Iraq (AFP) — Some 2,000 Iranian troops have launched an incursion into northern Iraq to attack Iranian Kurdish guerrilla bases here, a rebel group said Sunday.

The Iraqi-based Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPIK) said Iranian soldiers armed with light and heavy artillery had pushed 50 kilometers across the border to attack rebel bases.

Iran did not confirm the intervention, but said it shelled rebel positions inside Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Sunday in a bid to halt cross-border attacks.

Tension on the Iraq-Iran border has risen in recent months, with Iranian troops massing in the northwest to counter Iranian Kurdish rebel raids.

Taymour Mustafay, a DPIK spokesman in the main northern Iraqi town of Erbil, told AFP: "Three days ago, 200 Iranian vehicles arrived with more than 2,000 Iranian soldiers loaded with heavy and light weapons."

Mr. Mustafay said the troops crossed the border via the Marewan-Bahmag post near Sulaymaniyah province and pushed on to Koi Sanjaq, 50 kilometres south, late

Saturday before attacking the DPIK camps outside the town on Sunday.

"Now the fighting is going on in our bases, which are homes for our families and a hospital which is supported by foreign organisations," he said.

Salam Azizi, a member of the DPIK leadership, said the Iranian army was shelling the camps.

"The shelling started on our houses and the hospital at 6:30 this morning and now they (the Iranians) started the attack," Mr. Azizi told AFP.

"Several houses are burning, many families started to escape," he added, without giving details of casualties. Some of the families arrived in Erbil later Sunday.

"We didn't expect to fight the Iranian army inside Iraqi Kurdistan," he said.

Mr. Mustafay said the Iranian troops had based themselves at Al-Salam camp belonging to the Iraqi Kurd group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), for two nights before heading to Koi Sanjaq.

A spokesman for the PUK confirmed the incursion but denied that the Iranian troops had based themselves in Al-Salam camp, saying they went

directly to Koi Sanjaq.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday that Iranian troops shelled Iranian Kurdish positions inside Iraq on Sunday in response to cross-border raids.

"In a bid to fully repel offensives by the aggressors, their positions were targeted by long-range artillery shells" from Iran, an army officer told the agency.

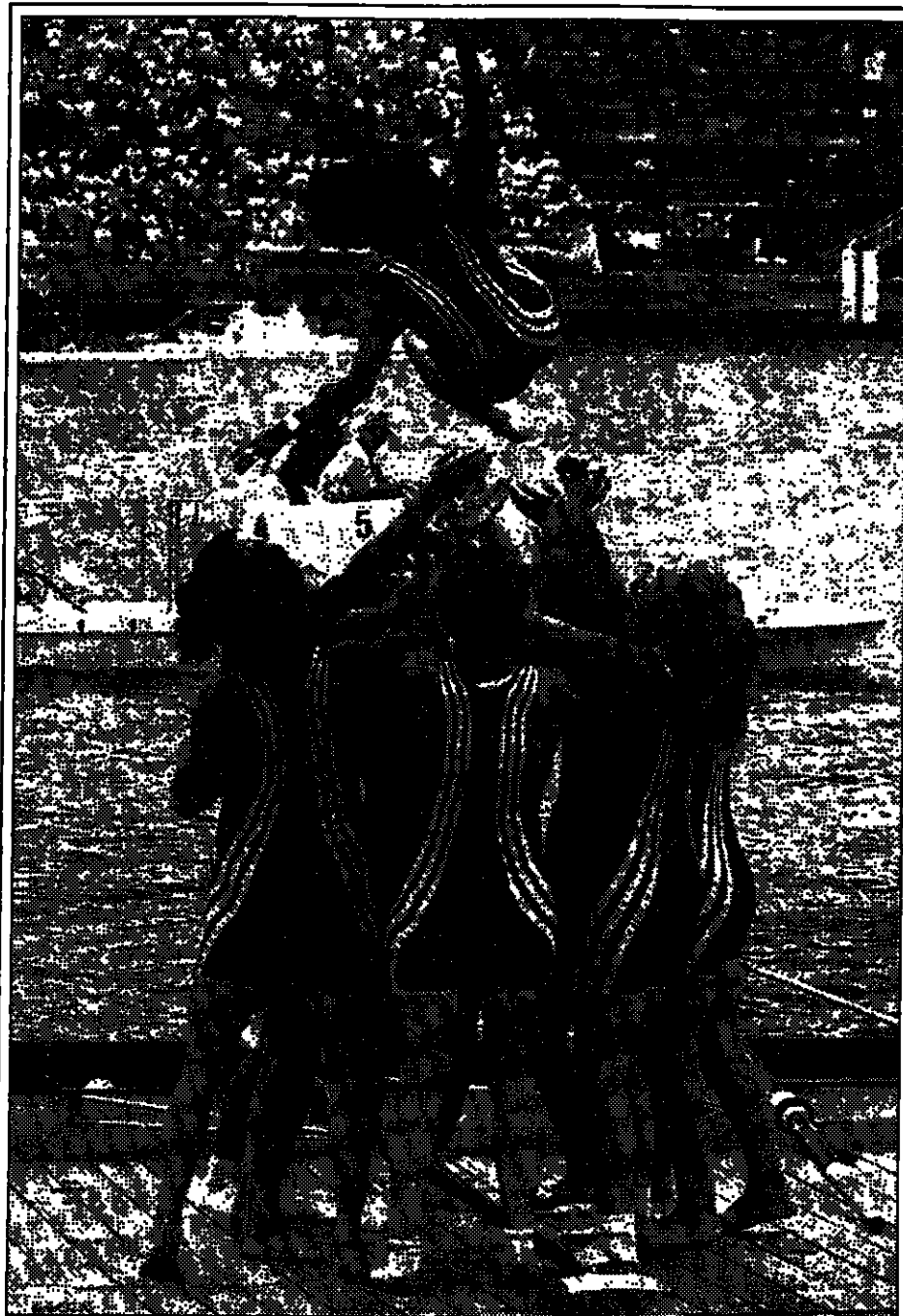
"We will continue to confront the aggressors until they are completely suppressed," the unidentified officer added.

Earlier, an Iranian border guard commander told IRNA that his forces had repelled a DPIK raid Sunday on several border villages. The commander, who was not identified, said his forces were "on a state of alert" because of a wave of recent attacks by Iranian Kurdish rebels.

Iran's northwestern border regions are the scene of regular clashes between security forces and guerrillas based in northern Iraq, which has been controlled by Iraqi Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

According to Kurdish sources in Iran, Kurdish

(Continued on page 3)



ROMANIAN WOMEN'S EIGHT GOLD WINNERS CELEBRATE: The Romanian women's eight throw their coxswain Elena Georgescu (top) into the air as they celebrate their gold medal victory, Sunday on Lake Lanier. Canada won silver and Belarus won bronze (Reuters photo)

## U.S. team in Bahrain to assess security

MANAMA (Agencies) — A U.S. task force arrived in Bahrain on the last leg of a tour aimed at assessing security for U.S. forces in the Gulf region and seeking clues to last month's bomb attack against a U.S. complex in Saudi Arabia.

"We've spent most of our time talking about procedures, assessing what happened, how it happened and how we could prevent it from happening in the future," U.S. task force spokesman Richard Bridges told Reuters after arriving in Manama late on Saturday.

The task force, headed by retired U.S. Army General Wayne Downing, has interviewed hundreds of American soldiers who were at the site of the truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen in Khobar, Saudi Arabia on June 25.

No arrests have been announced in connection with the blast.

Col. Bridges said the task force visited many sites where U.S. personnel were located. It also inspected a Saudi airbase in a remote area outside Riyadh to which U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry suggested some troops be moved.

U.S. officials in Washington said Mr. Perry would visit the kingdom this week to discuss plans expected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars to move up to 4,000 U.S. troops to a more isolated base.

Washington is now drawing up a security plan for its forces in the Gulf and the Middle East.

The plan, designed to protect 5,000 U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf against attackers using chemical and biological weapons as well as massive bombs, will include moving most of the U.S. forces in Dhahran to the more remote Al Kharij air base 100 kilometres southeast of Riyadh.

The truck bomb, packed with 3,000 pounds of explosives, tore the face off a building at the Khobar complex where U.S. air-

men were based to enforce a no-fly zone in southern Iraq introduced after the 1991 Gulf war that ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Besides Saudi Arabia, the U.S. task force spent two days in Kuwait checking U.S. installations and sites to assess the entire security arrangements on the ground.

"We have taken a look at the forces protection measures that are in place. If we find something that should be corrected we tell the commander immediately but we are trying to make a general assessment," Col. Bridges said.

He said the task force "was pleasantly surprised by the degree of cooperation" expressed by the Saudi authorities.

The team would make a similar assessment in Bahrain, the headquarters of the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

Col. Bridges refused to disclose details of the team's findings, saying the report would be completed on Aug. 15 and would be used to assess security for U.S. troops in the region.

Kuwait still fears Iraq

"We had an invasion by someone like Hitler. We were liberated by the ultimate force in the world. But (this) Hitler is still there," said Ghanim Al-Najjar, professor of political science at Kuwait University.

Kuwaitis still shudder at the memory of the rout on August 2, 1990, when President Saddam Hussein's troops and tanks rolled across the border and dug in for a seven-month occupation.

The sense of insecurity is heightened by President Hussein's determined grip on power in the face of several reported assassination attempts and a crippling United Nations economic embargo imposed on Iraq in 1990.

"Our fears are well-founded. We had an invasion, its not an illusion."

(Continued on page 3)

## Israel eases blockade of Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israel on Sunday eased its blockade of the Gaza Strip to allow around 17,500 workers to return to jobs in the Jewish state, but the total closure of the West Bank remained in force, a senior Palestinian official said.

Another 2,500 Gazans were allowed into the Erez industrial zone on the border with Israel, said General Saeb Al Ajaj, a security commander for the north of the Gaza Strip.

More than 120 lorries laden with fruit and vegetables as well as 160 private

vehicles were also authorised to cross the "green line" separating Israel from Gaza with a military escort, he said.

An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv confirmed the easing of the total closure of the Gaza Strip imposed on Friday after suspected Palestinian radicals killed three Israelis in a gun attack near Jerusalem.

"The closure of the West Bank imposed after this attack on the other hand remains in force until further notice," the spokesman said.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Friday condemned the new blockade which he said was a violation of the autonomy accords signed with Israel.

A total closure of the Palestinian territories was first ordered on Feb. 25 after the first in a wave of militant suicide bombings in Israel which left 58 dead.

It was then eased slightly after the May elections in the Jewish state to allow 30,000 Palestinians to return to work in Israel before the total closure was imposed again on Friday.

## Damascus says Ross's mission failed

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria said on Sunday that U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's Middle East mission had failed to bring it and Israel any closer to the peace negotiating table.

"Yet again American diplomacy has left empty-handed as the only result of the new mission by Dennis Ross was to show there is a timid initiative aimed at keeping the peace process alive," the official Al

Thawra daily wrote.

Mr. Ross, U.S. State Department Middle East coordinator, held talks last week with Syrian President Hafez Assad on a diplomatic shuttle that also included Israel, Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

The trip was aimed at breathing new life into the peace process which has foundered since the right-wing Israeli election victory in May.

Al Thawra said Mr. Ross had failed to make Israeli leaders soften their hardline stance on peace to allow the resumption of negotiations on the Syrian track which has been suspended since February.

"All he (Ross) was able to achieve in Israel was nebulous language on peace and unimportant generalities," said the paper, adding that

(Continued on page 3)

## Egyptian president's visit to U.S. aims at reinforcing principle of land-for-peace

By Lamis Andoni

BOSTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who started an official visit to the U.S. today, will face the dual task of improving bilateral relations with Washington and asserting Arab demands that the principle of "land-for-peace" remains the basis for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

As the first Arab leader to visit Washington after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Mubarak has also to explain the Arab position to American officials, congressmen and public.

Mr. Netanyahu's message to the Americans was that security (of Israel) was the cornerstone of a meaningful peace process, but Mr. Mubarak will have to reassert that the principle of land-for-peace was a prerequisite for the survival of the process, Arab diplomats say.

But the Egyptian president has the delicate task of showing the U.S. that Cairo is also concerned

about American interests in the region especially since Israeli leaders have been claiming that Egypt was increasingly adopting a "hostile attitude" towards the U.S. and Israel.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, however, who was in Washington preparing for Mr. Mubarak's visit, had declared that the continuity of the presence of American troops in the Gulf could lead to instability in the region. Mr. Musa's remarks reassured assumptions in some of the political circles in Washington that Cairo has been getting closer to the Syrian position.

However, American administration officials have repeatedly said that they are comfortable with the role currently played by Egypt to ensure the continuity of the Middle East peace process.

But American analysts who are close to the government say that Washington will not allow Egypt to assert a pivotal pan-Arab

role at the expense of American and Israeli interests.

This time, however, the Egyptian president comes to Washington armed with the results of the Cairo summit that reaffirmed Egypt's pivotal role in the Arab World.

American administration officials have indicated in the past two weeks that they would not like to see Cairo following up on the Cairo summit resolutions which called for a reassessment of relations between the Arab countries and Israel if the latter did not comply to the principle of exchanging land-for-peace.

Analysts in Washington say that the Egyptian position would have been stronger if the Arab governments had shown willingness to act upon the summit resolutions. "Why should the administration take the Egyptian or the Arab demands seriously, they have not acted on any of their resolutions?" said a very well-placed American analyst who asked for

## Mubarak heads for U.S. for talks with Clinton

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left Cairo on Sunday for a three-day visit to the United States, airport sources said.

Mr. Mubarak, who is due to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Tuesday, is expected to discuss hopes for the Middle East peace process after his talks earlier this month with Israel's hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to trade occupied Arab land in return for peace has angered Arabs and threatened to derail five years of U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

But Mr. Mubarak said he was optimistic that Arabs could make peace with Mr. Netanyahu after meeting the Israeli leader in Cairo 10 days ago.

Mr. Mubarak is also expected to discuss Washington's plans to veto attempts by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, to secure a second term of office.

The Egyptian delegation includes economic ministers lobbying for investment in Egypt by U.S. firms.

anonymity.

The administration is also worried about other aspects of Egyptian-American relations that have been a source of contention.

Ties between Washington and Cairo have been strained due to Egypt's support of the Syrian position, which insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and due to repeated Egyptian demands that Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In a briefing last week, State Department

(Continued on page 7)

## PLO police shot at Israeli force Arafat hails Ayyash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel said Palestinian police shot at an Israeli force in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Sunday but no one was injured.

"Shots fired from a Palestinian police roadblock in the city of Ramallah hit an Israeli jeep that was preparing to go out on a joint patrol in the city," an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

She said no one was hurt but the jeep was lightly damaged.

"In an initial investigation...by Major General Gabi Ofir, the Palestinian police representative said it was done by mistake."

She said Gen. Ofir would raise the shooting when he met his Palestinian counterpart, Haj Ismail. The meeting was expected later on Sunday, Israel said it would raise a number of infractions by Palestinian police at the meeting.

In another development, President Yasser Arafat hailed the Islamic Hamas group's assassinated master bombmaker and other "martyrs" on Saturday in a fiery speech asserting

Palestinian rights to Jerusalem.

The comment was sure to outrage Israel's new hardline government and came during an intensification in the tug-of-war between Israel and the Palestinians over Jerusalem.

"We are committed to all martyrs who died for the cause of Jerusalem starting with Ahmed Musa until the last martyr Yahya Ayyash," Mr. Arafat told a rally of 4,000 people in Gaza City.

Mr. Ayyash was killed in Gaza in January when a cellular phone he was using blew up. Mr. Musa was the first member of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO to be killed. He died in 1965.

Israel, which long said Mr. Ayyash was behind Islamic militant suicide bombings that killed scores of Israelis, refused to confirm or deny its involvement.

Mr. Arafat was incensed that Israel on Thursday permitted members of the Jewish ultra-nationalist Temple Mount faithful group onto Jerusalem's site of Islam's third holiest shrine. He called the move "danger-

ous".

Thursday was the holy day commemorating the destruction of the ancient Jewish temple once situated on the mount.

His cabinet in a communiqué released on Saturday called it "a barefaced challenge to Muslim feelings and an Israeli attempt to intensify the atmosphere in Jerusalem".

In Saturday's speech, Mr. Arafat called for a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the matter. He said U.N. resolutions enshrining the principle of trading occupied Arab land for peace applied to Arab East Jerusalem which Israel captured along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

In a reference to a campaign slogan of Israel's hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said the resolutions "say land-for-peace, not security for peace. This must be very clear."

Mr. Netanyahu urged

(Continued on page 3)



## Turkish doctors in battle to save strikers after end of 'death fast'

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish doctors struggled on Sunday to save critically ill leftists after the end of a two-month "death fast" which has so far claimed 12 lives.

The Turkish government, under strong pressure at home and abroad, on Saturday partly accepted demands from the hunger strikers for better prison conditions.

More than 300 inmates immediately halted their 69-day protest but human rights workers said about 20 lives were still at risk. A 12th inmate died overnight and others were in critical condition, they said.

"Hayati Can died on his way to hospital in Bursa last night — he is the 12th of the hunger strike," a spokesman for the Independent Human Rights Association (IHD) said.

About 170 prisoners had been taken to hospital so far and around 20 of them were in critical condition, human rights workers said. Others were being treated in prison.

"There is one, Refik Unal, for whom there may be no turning back," an IHD spokeswoman said. She gave no further details.

The state-run Anatolian news agency reported that doctors in the western town of Izmir had managed to revive another inmate, Gulden Isik, after her heart stopped beating early on Sunday.

Vedat Oz, head of a crisis centre set up in the health ministry for the hunger strike, told Anatolian that several of the patients suffered damage to internal organs, particularly the brain, and had metabolic problems.

Inmates taken to hospital after looking barely conscious, their eyes glazed over and their limbs



A far-left inmate in critical condition is surrounded by armed gendarmes while being rushed to a hospital early Sunday at the end of 69th day of a hunger strike at Istanbul's Bayrampasa prison. Hundreds of Turkish leftist prisoners agreed late Saturday to end a wave of hunger strike after the government partly accepted their demands (Reuters photo)

painfully thin.

The protest was the most serious domestic crisis to hit the month-old coalition of Islamist Premier Necmettin Erbakan.

Turkey's European allies, often critical of Ankara's poor human rights record, urged the government to end the strike or risk damaging ties just months after a lucrative customs union deal with the European Union went into effect in January.

The impact of the hunger strikes continued in Germany, after arsonists fire-bombed Turkish properties across the country for the

sixth successive night. Investigators said they suspected supporters of the hunger strike were behind the attacks.

In Turkey, there was more relief than joy. The Human Rights Association spokesman said he did not expect any celebrations on Sunday as the lives of several prisoners were still in danger.

Yemliha Kaya, one of the victims of the hunger strike, was buried on Sunday in Istanbul's rundown Yenibosna district as hundreds of relatives, friends and supporters chanted leftist slogans and sang mournful

songs. The prisoners had been demanding better treatment in prisons and an end to a policy of dispersal which they say cuts them off from each other, their families and their lawyers.

Prisoners had also demanded the closure of Eskisehir jail in western Turkey — dubbed "the Coffin" for its single-person cells — and the transfer of prisoners to Bayrampasa jail in Istanbul, where several hundred other leftist prisoners stay.

Justice Minister Sevkettin Kizilirmaci said he had agreed to one of the prisoners' main

demands to transfer around 100 inmates from Eskisehir to jails in Istanbul — 20 of them to Umraniye, which he had hitherto firmly refused to do — but ruled out shutting down the high-security prison.

He said that he had decided to give in because Saturday night was the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammed.

"I thought of the significance of the night," Mr. Kizilirmaci said on the Anatolian news agency. "This night this thing had to finish and everyone should be happy. This is why I said I agreed."

## Relatives of slain prisoners want Shin Bet killers brought to justice

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Following an Israeli agent's revelation that he crushed the skulls of two captured Palestinian bus hijackers, relatives of the dead men called Sunday for the officers involved to be brought to justice.

"We want a fair trial and punishment," said Alan Abu Jami, whose brother Sabhi died after being taken prisoner in 1984. "Nothing will compensate us."

Ehud Yatom, a former agent for Israel's Shin Bet intelligence service, told a newspaper last week that he had killed the two men in 1984 by crushing their skulls with a rock. Yatom said he was proud of what he had done.

The disclosure 12 years ago that the two hijackers had died in custody rather than during the storming of the hijacked bus as initially claimed exposed the Shin Bet to critical public scrutiny for the first time. The cover-up was exposed when a newspaper published photographs showing the two men alive in custody.

But Yatom's interview in the Yediot Ahronot newspaper last week was the first time an individual involved in the deaths came forward and disclosed details of the killings.

Yatom, 48, said the two

hijackers were badly beaten by soldiers, Shin Bet agents and civilians before he got instructions from then-Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom to kill them.

The attorney general at the time called for Shalom's dismissal, but the government rejected his recommendation. Shalom and 10 other Shin Bet officers implicated in the affair, including Yatom, were pardoned by then-President Haim Herzog.

Yossi Sarid, an opposition member of parliament and former cabinet minister, said Sunday that the killings "taint the struggle of the state to defend itself."

"I wish some way would be found to cancel the pardons retroactively," he said.

But Gidon Ezra, a member of parliament from the ruling Likud Party and a former Shin Bet official, said Yatom's story was nothing new.

"Only Ehud Yatom's part is new to the public — that's all," he said. "He just talked too much."

The Independent Association for Civil Rights in Israel said Yatom's revelations underscored the necessity of creating legal standards and public oversight for the Shin Bet.

"Killing prisoners, even terrorists, is a grave crime and those responsible should

have been punished," the group said in a statement. "Instead, after being pardoned ... Ehud Yatom was promoted."

Dan Yakir, an attorney for the group, said Yatom and other officers involved in the killings cannot face criminal charges because they have already been pardoned. But he said it was possible the family could bring a civil lawsuit, even so many years later, if it had new evidence.

Mr. Abu Jami, interviewed at his home in the Gaza Strip, told the Associated Press he was looking for a lawyer to press charges against Yatom, whom he called a "war criminal."

"I believe the killer will be punished," he said.

Meanwhile, Shin Bet chief Ami Ayalon has reportedly ordered an investigation of whether Yatom broke the law by giving the newspaper interview.

Gideon Levy, a columnist for the Haaretz newspaper, commented Sunday on the irony of Yatom facing a possible jail term for giving an unauthorized interview, while getting off scot-free for killing a man.

"After all," he wrote, "according to our ethical code, a newspaper interview is serious beyond comparison to a cold-blooded murder."

## Amir hunger striking to protest prison conditions

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yitzhak Rabin's convicted assassin is staging a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, prison authorities said Sunday. Yigal Amir, 25, claims conditions in the Ohalei Kedar prison in Beersheba, where he is being held in isolation, are intolerable. Amir's telephone and family visit privileges were revoked last week after he broke a security camera in his cell. Amir began his strike last Wednesday. Since then he has drunk only water, juice and coffee, a prison spokeswoman said. Amir is serving a life sentence for killing Rabin at a Nov. 4 peace rally in Tel Aviv. He, his brother Hagai, and friend Dror Adani are currently on trial on conspiracy charges. Amir held sporadic short-term hunger strikes in the spring to protest being held in isolation.

## Pollard's wife launches hunger strike

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The wife of Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew jailed for life for spying for Israel, began a hunger strike in Jerusalem on Sunday to demand his release and call for Israeli government intervention.

"Jonathan can do no more. He has already served 11 years in prison for his activities on behalf of Israel and it is clear that his appeals for pardon from the United States have no chance of success," Esther Pollard told Israel Radio.

"The ball is now in Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's court. The time for fine words is over — now it's time to act," she said. Mr. Netanyahu said Saturday he was disappointed at U.S. President Bill Clinton's rejection of a second pardon request from Pollard.

"The Israeli government is disappointed in this decision and the prime minister will continue to work to obtain the release of Jonathan Pollard," an official at the prime minister's office said. Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said Sunday the Israeli leader "has already worked a lot on Jonathan Pollard's behalf, both in opposition and since he came to power. Several days ago he sent a message to Mr. Clinton asking for a pardon."

## Afghanistan president appeals for peace

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani called on all warring factions to lay down their arms and participate in peace talks, state-run Kabul Radio reported Sunday.

Speaking on the eve of the Muslim holiday Eid Mawlid Al Nabawi, celebrating the birth of Prophet Mohammed,

Mr. Rabbani said it was time to bring peace to Afghanistan.

"The prophet taught us to seek peace," Mr. Rabbani was quoted as saying by Kabul Radio, monitored in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

He issued an appeal to the rebel Taliban militia to stop rocketing the capital and begin a dialogue for peace.

Taliban fighters positioned just south of Kabul have been pounding the city with rockets in a bid to oust Mr. Rabbani and his new partner Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The Kabul government is also opposed by rebels in northern Afghanistan led by Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum.

Mr. Rabbani's appeal was broadcast one day before new United Nations special envoy Norbert Holl was to arrive in Kabul.

Mr. Holl, a German diplomat, plans to meet with senior government officials before travelling to rebel-held territory later in the week.

## Algerian Islamic group: Member tortured, slain after his expulsion from Belgium

PARIS (AP) — Algeria's leading Muslim opposition group says one of its members was tortured to death in Algeria after he was expelled from Belgium, and that his family was tortured or harassed.

Dozens of other Algerians face similar extraditions from other European capitals, said a statement Saturday by the Islamic Salvation Front, a banned party leading an insurgency against the Algerian government.

There was no immediate comment from the Belgian or Algerian governments.

Ben Othman Bouathria, also known by the last name Said, requested political asylum in Belgium in October last year after he

was sentenced to death in Algeria. But Brussels repatriated him on July 15, the salvation front said in the statement.

The salvation front, known by its French initials FIS, said reprisals continued overnight Friday when Algerian security forces came to Bouathria's home to arrest his mother, who had reported he died under torture.

"Not having found her, they took the 13-year-old sister of the victim, who they tortured for several hours until they obtained the address where the mother was," said the statement faxed from the FIS parliamentary delegation office in Washington.

On Saturday, security

forces arrested the 75-year-old mother, a 23-year-old sister and an 18-year-old brother, the FIS said.

"The FIS considers Belgian authorities responsible for these sufferings, of his murder, as well as the fate of his family," the statement said.

A militant insurgency has raged in Algeria since the military-dominated government cancelled January 1992 elections the FIS was expected to win and banned the party.

More than 60,000 people have died in the conflict involving several militant groups including the Islamic Salvation Army, the FIS military wing.

## S. Arabia, Yemen sign pacts on security, drug smuggling

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen have signed agreements to cooperate on security and fight drug smuggling, official sources said here.

Saudi Interior Minister Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz and his Yemeni counterpart Colonel Hussein Arab signed the deals in the Red Sea city of Jeddah on Saturday, the official Saudi

Press Agency (SPA) said.

An informed Yemeni source said the agreements would also allow the two neighbours to fight terrorism, exchange information on security and bolster coordination between their intelligence services.

Last year Col. Arab said that the agreements would call for the extradition of "criminals and extremists" as well as for

fighting against drugs and weapons smuggling.

Four Saudis convicted of an anti-American bombing in Riyadh in November confessed on state television that they had smuggled weapons and explosives into Saudi Arabia with the help of a Yemeni who was not identified.

The four were beheaded in

May for the bombing that killed five Americans and two Indians at a U.S. army training mission.

The Yemeni authorities also said they have foiled large drug trafficking operations in the last two years. Drugs coming from Asia have been reported smuggled into Saudi Arabia through Yemen.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:03 .....Bonkers  
14:26 .....New Three Stooges  
14:35 .....Here's Lucy  
15:00 .....Varieties  
15:20 .....Olympic Games  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:10 .....Olympic Games  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:15 .....Olympic Games

### PRAYER TIMES

04:14 .....Fajr  
05:44 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:42 .....Dhuhr  
16:23 .....Asr  
19:41 .....Maghreb  
21:10 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swedehel, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the

Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to

drop slightly but remaining

above average by two degrees

centigrade and winds north-

westerly moderate. In Aqaba,

winds will be northerly moder-

ate to active and seas calm,

Min./Max. temp.

Amman.....23/34

Aqaba.....28/39

Deserts.....22/36

Jordan Valley.....26/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 36, Aqaba 40 Humid-

ity readings: Amman 26 per

cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mazin Nballi.....830435

Dr. Adnan Zaghloul.....898140

Dr. Fayez Dabbas.....759155

Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi.....663412

Ferdows pharmacy.....778336

Al Asema pharmacy.....637055

Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Nairoukh pharmacy.....847632

Najib pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Hamneh.....25080

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Zuhur Al Qadi.....906606

Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade.....617101

Blood Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896590

Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water & Sewage Complaints.....687467

Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs.....623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITAL

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6

Akileh Maternity.....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital

845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3

Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/55

Amal Hospital.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

(09)990990



# Home News

## Jordanian industry opposes ministry's draft law on food

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian food industry has found a draft law aimed at regulating the industry much too restrictive and has set up a panel from the industry's trade associations to draft their own related proposals for submission to the Ministry of Health.

At a meeting between health ministry officials, member of the Association Imported Food Stuff, the Chamber of Industry and other food industry representatives, the private sector said it was dismayed at the form and content of the proposed legislation. According to Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan, the Imported Food Stuff Association disagreed to the articles of the proposed law which calls for the creation of a general corporation on food to assume sole responsibility for food safety in Jordan and would claim full



Khalid Abu Hassan

control over the monitoring of food production and food quality in the market. "The authorities, Mr. Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times, "cannot take over the sole responsibility for food safety or close down private owned factories as stipulated by the draft law without consulting the food stuff industry." He said the proposed government-controlled corporation would not only be totally responsible for food production, but would also

control matters related to the employment of personnel in the food industry and the means used for transporting food to the markets. The draft law contains provisions for standardised food production, for the import and export of the same and the inspection of stores, restaurants and other places dealing in food, he added.

To reach a satisfactory agreement for all parties, the participants of the meeting agreed on the establishment of a committee, consisting of five representatives of the food stuff industry. This committee will study the different attitudes towards the draft law as it has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and suggest alternative that would respond to the concerns of all parties. Mr. Abu Hassan said. He said he expected the committee's proposal to be ready and presented to Ministry of Health within a week.

## Dispute at electrical union ends in board resignation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Verbal and physical disputes over an article in an agreement between the Electrical Workers Union and the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) management has led to the mass resignation of the union board.

During a union general assembly meeting Saturday evening, attended by union president Walid Khayyat and the 10-member board, the general assembly appeared split over whether to accept or reject an article dealing with the end-of-service compensation offered by JEPCO management in its agreement with its employees drawn up last October.

Union sources told the Jordan Times that while part of the workers accepted the management's offer, others rejected it as infringing on their rights. They added that there were other arguments over the current health plan and that some members demanded a new plan with

what they believe are better conditions. The debate started with the exchange of sharp words and later led to some scuffles. Mr. Khayyat and his board members resigned and announced that an election would be held in two weeks to elect a new board.

According to Mr. Khayyat, the agreement, concluded in Oct. 1995 was an update to a 1985 pact that offered end-of-employment compensation at the rate of 10 per cent of the total amount of an employee's wages.

He said union members were split on whether to accept this formula or to stick to the earlier agreement which offered terminated employees compensation in accordance with the Labour Law.

The law stipulates that an employee will get half of his/her monthly wages for the first four years of employment and a month's pay for each of the remaining years of service.

## Ministry to amend GUVS statute

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development Sunday agreed to amend the 1966 statute of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), and to introduce changes consistent with the changing role of voluntary societies.

The revised statute defines GUVS financial resources and methods of spending the union's funds, as well as the annual contribution of each

member society. The statute also defines the terms governing the membership of the executive board.

Commenting on the revised statute, GUVS President Abdullah Khatib said the new amendments aim to help GUVS in coping with the latest developments of voluntary work and give voluntary societies the freedom to carry out their projects smoothly without restric-

tions or obstacles.

"They are necessary to cover the shortcomings in the union's 1966 law, which is no longer capable of coping with the latest developments," Dr. Khatib said.

The revised statute fixed the annual contribution to GUVS of any society with less than 50 members at JD 50, and JD 100 for societies with more than 50 members.

## Estranged husband kills in-laws, then shoots himself

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

SALT — A 27-year-old father of four Sunday shot three of his in-laws, killing two, then shot himself in the head in the Khandak area of Salt, according to witnesses and official sources.

Sources said that the suspect, Abdul Razzak Mohammad, shot his in-laws following a brawl over family problems.

Mr. Mohammad, who was separated from his wife, frequently visited his in-laws house demanding to have his children back, "and tension grew over the past few weeks," said one neighbour, who had witnessed the incident.

"On Saturday, Moham-

mad went to his in-laws and asked for his children, but instead he was beaten-up, his vehicle was destroyed, and he had to spend a night in the hospital," the neighbour, Ra'ed Arabiyat told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Arabiyat, Mr. Mohammad appeared at the home of his in-laws again the following day. Mr. Arabiyat said that Mr. Mohammad monitored the house until he saw his father-and-mother-in-law exit from their home.

According to the eyewitness, Mr. Mohammad drew his gun and shot his in-laws at least ten times.

"It was a horrible scene," Mr. Arabiyat said.

Mr. Mohammad then entered the house and shot the couple's son, Alaadin

Ismael, 18, three times, the neighbour added.

The deceased were identified by officials as Nae'l Ismael, 50, and his wife Suad Ibrahim, 50.

The youth is being treated at Salt Government Hospital and is listed in critical condition, according to official sources.

Another witness said that later Mr. Mohammad left the house, drew a gun and shot himself in the head.

"I heard several gun shots coming from Mr. Ismael's house, then I saw Mr. Mohammad leave the house, stand in the courtyard, draw a second gun and shoot himself in the head," said Tarek Ensour, 17.

According to official sources, Mr. Mohammad, a

sergeant at the Public Security Department, has a slim chance of survival. He is being treated at King Hussein Medical Centre.

### Police arrest suspects in fraud ring

Meanwhile, Zarqa police recently apprehended a group of women who allegedly defrauded home-makers of JD 500,000 worth of jewellery, according to official sources.

According to the source, the suspect visited their victims during the day claiming that they could predict their future and read their palms and coffee cups.

The scheme involved convincing their victims to put their jewellery in a piece of

cloth in order as part of the fortune telling.

The perpetrators would distract their victims and meanwhile exchange the jewellery-filled cloth with another cloth filled with small stones.

The suspects would then leave the victims' homes.

Police said they were able to apprehend the women from the victims' descriptions.

They said they retrieved most of the jewellery from under the suspects' mattresses.

Police would release no information on the suspects except to say that they were being held in custody pending further investigations.

## Bosnia embassy still hopeful on finding minimum number of voters

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Attempts by the Bosnia-Herzegovina embassy in Amman to track down a minimum number of Bosnian nationals residing in the Middle East in order to open a voting centre here for the coming Bosnian general elections have so far been fruitless, said a Bosnian envoy.

According to Bosnia-Herzegovina Chargé d'Affaires Mohammed Mrabrovic, "Complying with international laws, Sarajevo asked our embassy here to register at least 6,000 Bosnian nationals residing in Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Israel as a result of the war in former Yugoslavia, to open a voting centre in Amman," he said.

Notwithstanding the announcements in newspapers and on television and radio in Jordan and other

countries covered by the Bosnian embassy in Amman, (Syria, Palestine, Iraq and Israel), Mr. Mrabrovic regretted that "until now, we have not been able to enlist enough voters to open a polling centre."

The Bosnian embassy in Amman has until August 5 to put together a list of voters, before the Sept. 14 Bosnian elections.

"We also contacted the ministries of foreign affairs of different countries in the region and asked the UN organisations for refugees, but could not put together representative and reliable figures yet," he explained, adding that "it might be a matter of time."

As a result of the four-year war which shattered Bosnia and claimed the lives of more than half a million civilians and military personnel, 150,000 of which were Bosnian-Serbs and 50,000 Bosnian-Croatians, embassy sources esti-

mate that around 500 Bosnians found refuge in Jordan in the past year. These refugees, he said were aided by the Hashemite Charity Organisation and U.N. agencies.

The Bosnian embassy speculates that there might be up to 15,000 Bosnians currently residing in the Middle East.

"Many of them came to this region in major migratory waves starting from the 30s, and they still hold Bosnian passports," Mr. Mrabrovic explained.

Stressing the role played by Jordanians from all walks of life in helping Bosnian families and victims of the war, the Bosnian ambassador expressed his people's thanks to Jordan.

The coming general elections are going to be the first since Bosnia declared its independence on April 6, 1992, only to be invaded by Serbian troops; that very same day.

The Bosnians are going to the polls to elect president, parliament and local councils.

The 15 parties so far running for the elections, "represent all political lines, from left to right," Mr. Mrabrovic said.

Along with parties inspired by the former Yugoslavian communist regime, new liberal or nationalist parties as well as parties tackling specific issues or targeting a specific constituency, (such as the "Party for the Economic Progress" and the "Women's Party"), can be found.

"Each of them has its own ideas about how to carry on the reconstruction of the country after the war, and made of this issue the central point of its political programme," Mr. Mrabrovic explained.

Particularly favoured seems to be the "Social Democratic Action Party,"

headed by current President Ali Izetovic.

"The latter option could be a broad coalition among all the oppositions, but it seems unlikely to be achieved," the Bosnian ambassador told the Jordan Times.

Among the candidates for president, particularly well-liked and strongly supported seems to be Vladimir Srebrov.

Bosnian-Serb, fighter in the Bosnian resistance against the Serbian occupation and jailed and tortured by Serbian troops, Dr. Srebrov, also a renowned intellectual and writer, could have the right credentials to be elected, according to Mr. Mrabrovic.

"But the most shameful thing is that all those who were compelled to leave to escape the ethnic cleansing, well not be allowed to vote in their own land," he commented.

## Official says Awqaf ministry prepares for JD1.5m investment

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Waqf Development and Investment Department Riad Abu Tayeh Sunday said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is currently implementing several investment projects at the cost of JD 1.5 million in different parts of the country. The projects, include the construction of warehouses and offices.

Mr. Abu Tayeh said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministry had allocated JD 1,200,000 to finance seven investment projects

by the end of this year, in addition to five others to be financed through profit-sharing from the Orphans Fund (OF).

The ministry, he said, has also invited tenders from four consulting companies to study and prepare plans for starting investment projects on 300 plots of waqf land in various parts of the country.

Mr. Abu Tayeh added that the ministry's future plans are to establish two markets: one in Quraish Street in Amman and another in Irbid, which will also be financed by the OF.

## Controversial French philosopher to meet with writers union in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Writers Association (AWA) President Fakhri Kawayar said the Jordan Times Sunday that French philosopher and human rights activist Roger Garaudy is expected in Amman Thursday for a three-day visit and meetings with writers, human rights activists, and political parties.

Mr. Kawayar said that Mr. Garaudy, who was invited by both the AWA and Al Dustour Arabic daily, will attend a seminar and a press conference at Hittin refugee camp east of Amman.

Mr. Garaudy, added Mr. Kawayar, will meet with representatives of Jordanian political parties as well as intellectuals to discuss what many observers say is a Zionist campaign against the writer's book, The Founding Myths of Israeli Politics, in which he questions the extent of the Nazi holocaust against the Jews.

Mr. Garaudy, who last week visited Lebanon, is currently in Syria on a tour of the region in response to invitations by Arab intellectuals. During his three-day trip to Lebanon, which started on July 21, Mr. Garaudy visited Qana

where more than 100 Lebanese refugees were killed during the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon last April.

According to Mr. Kawayar, Mr. Garaudy's book, which was banned in European countries, has been translated into Arabic in Beirut and Cairo and is now sold in Amman bookshops.

Mr. Kawayar expressed AWA's full solidarity with Mr. Garaudy, a former communist who converted to Islam and is married to Palestinian poet Salma Jayousi.

## Iranian troops in northern Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

guerrillas have reinforced their positions in Iraq's mountainous border region.

The DPIK border, quoted by IRNA, said the Kurdish rebels killed two people and wounded three others in an attack on Wednesday.

Iranian forces have several times in the past years launched air attacks or shelled Kurdish bases inside Iraq in retaliation for cross-border raids.

Iran, like neighbouring Iraq, Turkey and Syria, has a sizeable Kurdish minority, with an estimated two

million Kurds and some factions waging an armed campaign for autonomy.

The DPIK was created in 1945, and along with the Communist Kumalah is the main Kurdish formation fighting the Tehran government from Iraq.

Its leadership was decimated several years ago by a string of attacks, including the assassination in 1992 of four of its top leaders in Berlin.

German authorities suspect Iran of being behind the 1992 killings but Tehran denies the charges. The DPIK is now led by Abdollah Hassanzadeh.

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli leaders "want to rub out five years of peace efforts" and "impose a peace on their conditions."

Right-wing, nationalist Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out trading further Arab land for peace since he took power last month, and has notably refused to discuss the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Syria is demanding the return of the strategic plateau, captured by Israel during the 1967 war and annexed in 1981, as a con-

## Damascus says Ross failed

dition of making peace with the Jewish state.

The government daily Tishrin congratulated Lebanon on Sunday for its "rejection" of a plan for a conditional Israeli withdrawal from a border strip occupied by the Jewish state in South Lebanon.

"Lebanon saw in this proposition a manoeuvre to separate the Lebanese and Syrian tracks and to sow the seeds of distrust between Syria and Lebanon by giving the latter a peace which harms its sovereignty and allows Israel to intervene in its affairs under the pretext

of security," said the paper. Syria and Lebanon have vowed not to sign peace with Israel without the other.

Mr. Netanyahu, in a bid to advance peace negotiations,

proposed to Mr. Ross last week a "Lebanon first" deal, under which Israeli troops would withdraw from the border strip in return for the disarming of the Hizbollah guerrillas.

## Arafat hails Ayyash

(Continued from page 1)

peace with security in his campaign ahead of May 29 elections. He won by less than a percentage point.

Mr. Arafat affirmed his commitment to peace moves with Israel but warned: "There will be no comprehensive and just peace unless it is on all Arab tracks."

On Friday, Israel Radio said Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy had demanded Mr. Arafat close three offices operating in Arab East Jerusalem. Mr. Levy's spokesman was not available to comment. Mr. Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rdainah refused to comment.

(Continued from page 1)

said Najjar, who was held prisoner in Iraq for one and half months during the occupation.

The Kuwaiti press follows minutely every Iraqi blocking tactic against U.N. weapons inspectors, while hundreds of families wait for news of relatives they say are still being held in Iraq.


"For us Kuwait is liberated geographically and everything, but deep inside not yet," said Khalidoun Al-

Sane, who has campaigned tirelessly to highlight the plight of his missing brother, uncle and two cousins.

Kuwait lists more than 600 people who were arrested by Iraqi troops or simply vanished without trace during the invasion, and are still missing.

"With 600 people, if you take each one's first and second cousin, that's almost every street in Kuwait," said Mr. Sane, describing how many families in this country of 700,000 Kuwaitis are affected.

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**WHAT'S GOING ON**

**JERASH FESTIVAL**

- Concert by Syrian artist Sabah Fakhri at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Play entitled "Julia Donna" by Sharif Khazindar Troupe at Artimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance by Taipei Folk Dance Troupe of Taiwan at the Spout and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Play entitled "The Ball O' Master" at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.
- Concert by artist Rami Shafiq at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.
- Egyptian National Circus and British Five-Star Circus at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
- Performances by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band, the Jordanian Band of Popular Art, the Madaba Youth Centre, Nor Serunt Armenian Folklore Troupe, and Jerash Youth Centre and German Kokeltaler Folklore Group at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
- Poetry recitals by Iraqi, Yemeni, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Omani poets at Darat Al Fann, Jabal Weibden (6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.)

**Dr. Musa N. Jamal**

FRCS (ED), DLO  
Prof. of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery  
Previous Chairman of ENT section  
Jordan University Hospital

Announces the opening of his private clinic at  
**Jordan Hospital**  
Tel: 701177



# Burundi ruler says no more Hutu refugee expulsions

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's new military ruler Major Pierre Buyoya said on Sunday he was halting forced expulsions of Rwandan Hutu refugees in a move apparently aimed at defusing international criticism of his takeover of power in a coup.

Maj. Buyoya, a Tutsi, said his government would not force Rwandan Hutus to go back to the homeland which they had fled in fear of retribution for the mass killings of Rwandan Tutsis by Hutus in 1994.

"Our government will respect international law, including the protection of the refugees on our soil," he told a news conference.

An army operation last week, launched before Thursday's coup, in which 15,000 Hutus were sent back to Rwanda from northern Burundi was roundly condemned. More than 70,000 Hutus remain in camps in the north.

The repatriations were carried out by Burundian authorities and their Rwandan counterparts and had the backing of President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, who was deposed by Maj. Buyoya.

An estimated 150,000 people have been killed in Burundi in three years of violence driven by fear and hatred between Hutus, who

make up about 85 per cent of the population and Tutsis, who dominate the military and state apparatus.

Burundi and Rwanda have a similar ethnic mix and their politics are intertwined.

Maj. Buyoya repeated his opposition to foreign intervention to end the killing in Burundi.

"The intervention of foreign troops has been very badly received by the people. The solution to our problems is political dialogue," he said.

But Hutus in Bujumbura's Kamenge suburb said they wanted outside intervention.

"We demand that the international community intervene militarily. The coup is a catastrophe for this country and only a fool would believe it is accepted by the population," said Francois Nkenyerere, 29, standing outside a Catholic church.

He said the rebel National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD) of Leonard Nyangoma was likely to grow.

"I can understand what Nyangoma is doing and I fully support him. He wants to reform the country. He has the arms to do it and the army trembles when his soldiers pass," Mr. Nkenyerere said.

Kamenge is a "no-go" area for Tutsis, since violence there during an attempted coup in 1993. Today the sub-

urb, which is full of burnt-out houses, is almost deserted after the Tutsi-dominated army last year tried to reimpose their control.

Hundreds of Tutsi youths returned to Bujumbura's streets in force on Sunday, running through the town and along the shore of Lake Tanganyika, chanting and singing under the watchful eye of the military.

They said the "sports exercise" was part of normal Sunday activity and denied it was part of preparations for the defence of the capital.

U.N. officials said rural areas were reported to be as calm as the capital and there were no signs of major violence.

U.S. special envoy to Burundi, Howard Wolpe, was expected in the Ugandan capital Kampala later in the day as part of a round of regional shuttle diplomacy.

He was expected to be briefed on talks between the presidents of Tanzania and Uganda, who earlier met Julius Nyerere, heads of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) effort to end the Burundi crisis.

The presidents condemned the coup but said any action would be decided at a summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Wednesday.



A Hutu woman, displaced by the fighting in nearby Kamenge district, listens to a message of peace during a church service in Bujumbura Sunday. Hutus have expressed anger and fear at the military coup d'etat which imposed a Tutsi president and suspended political activities and the constitution (Reuters photo)

## 'Do nothing' U.S. Congress kicks into action

WASHINGTON (R) — After months of partisan bickering and charges of a "do-nothing Congress" lawmakers are suddenly on the brink of passing major new laws including health and welfare reform and a minimum wage increase.

The burst of activity has been motivated by worry that public disgust with Congress's lackluster record to date could produce a voter backlash in the Nov. 5 elections.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that we're going to be able to go back (home) and say we've done some good work in a bipartisan way," said Texas Democratic Representative Charlie Stenholm.

"We were called a 'do-nothing' Congress. When that sticks, it hurts," he said.

Congressional leaders hope to finish before their summer recess at the end of this week a sweeping reform bill which would end a six-decade entitlement to welfare payments.

They are also on the verge of passing the first major health bill since President Bill Clinton's grand plan for universal health insurance died in 1994. The new health bill would help Americans keep insurance if they changed jobs or became ill.

Lawmakers caution there are still hurdles ahead.

President Clinton has not endorsed the welfare reform bill championed by Republicans, which would also limit welfare payments to a maximum of five years for each person. Senate Democratic leader Tom

Daschle said on Friday the White House has enough concerns that a veto is possible.

On the health bill, key lawmakers removed the main obstacle to approval when they reached a bipartisan deal on Thursday on the contentious issue of tax-deferred medical savings accounts. These would allow some Americans to put money in savings for future health care. Other disputes remain over the legislation.

Still, the chances that significant reforms will be passed by a Republican-controlled Congress and signed into law by a Democratic president in the coming weeks are far better than many lawmakers had expected.

"I think there's no ques-

tion that the country needs agreement on health insurance and welfare reform. The Congress wants to show that we can produce," said Senate majority leader Trent Lott.

The deal on health care also has cleared the decks for approval of an increase in the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour from the current \$4.25. Lawmakers hope they can also finish work on the minimum wage and a small business tax bill by the summer recess.

Less noticed in all the hubbub last week, lawmakers went ahead and passed a bipartisan bill creating a uniform rule for residues of cancer-causing chemicals in U.S. food — ending not months but decades of argument over the issue.

The measure wipes out the

1958 delaney clause, which had banned any trace of cancer-causing pesticides in processed food and replaces it with a new risk standard — one in a million over a lifetime — for raw and processed foods.

Analysts said with the election looming, both parties want to be able to show some successes. All 435 members of the House of Representatives and a third of the 100 senators are up for re-election.

"Perhaps they're beginning to look more closely at the November election deadline that's looming large and think some bipartisan spirit will have an impact on incumbents," said Karlyn Bowman, an analyst with the American Enterprise Institute.

## Japanese-Chinese islands row escalates

TOKYO (R) — Japan's row with Taiwan and China over islands claimed by each nation escalated on Sunday with reports that Tokyo's coastguard ships were on alert to use force if necessary to repel a Taiwanese protest flotilla.

The reports said in recent days deployment of Japanese patrol boats has been changed to put them in position to act if the fishing boat flotilla sailed towards the islands in the East China Sea.

The long-running row over the islands flared again two weeks ago when the ultra-rightist Japanese youth federation erected a symbolic aluminium light-house on one of the islands.

The uninhabited islands, which each nation claims are within 200 km of their coast, are known as the Senkaku islands in Japan, and the Diaoyu Isles by China and Taiwan.

The prize for ownership of the five small islands and three reefs surrounding them is believed to be rich deposits of oil and natural gas.

Trawlermen in northern Taiwan, who fish near the islands, have said they plan to send up to 200 boats into the area as a protest at the erection of the lighthouse.

Spokesmen for Japan's foreign ministry and maritime safety agency (MSA), the country's coastguard, had no comment on the reports of gathering moves to repel the planned flotilla.

Kyodo news service, quoting government sources, said on Sunday Tokyo had decided to use boats and planes if neces-

sary to keep the fishing boats out of what it described as Japan's territorial waters.

"The sources said Japan would have to force the ships out of Japanese waters in accordance with domestic law by sending maritime safety agency patrol boats and aircraft, if necessary," Kyodo reported.

In another report, the Mainichi newspaper on Sunday said participation by two coastguard boats in traditional civilian festival events at this time of the year had been cancelled to deploy the ships to the disputed area.

"The MSA has been dispatching large-scale patrol boats towards the east China Sea, while a series of events which have given civilians a chance to ride on the boats has been cancelled," the newspaper reported.

There have been conflicting reports about when the Taiwanese flotilla would head for the islands with some estimates saying it would set out as early as next Wednesday.

But in a report from Taiwan on Sunday, Kyodo said fishery leaders had decided to hold a mass rally against Japan in Taipei on August 3, followed by a large-scale protest at sea two weeks later if the lighthouse was not dismantled by then.

Beijing has so far played a low key role in the dispute, insisting the islands belong to China but saying it wants the matter to be settled by friendly negotiations.

## Soldiers kill 12 rebels in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (AP) — Army soldiers gunned down 12 rebels who fired at them in Kashmir on Sunday, a military official said. In two other incidents in the northern state that Muslim separatists want to break away from India, six people were killed.

Army soldiers searching for militants encountered a hail of bullets from the rebels and fired back, said a defence ministry spokesman in Srinagar, the state capital.

Ten guerrillas were killed in Kurali Porey village in Baramullah district, about 60 kilometres north of Srinagar, said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

A rebel sympathiser from neighbouring Pakistan was killed in another encounter in Kadalbal village in Badgam district, 35 kilometres west of Srinagar, he said.

The third incident, in Panzawunpur village in Anantnag district, left one rebel dead, he said.

No casualties were reported among the soldiers in all three incidents, he said. The official

gave no other details.

The Indian government says Pakistani guerrillas often fight alongside with Kashmiri rebels. India accuses Pakistan of training and arming Kashmiri rebels. Pakistan denies the charge and says it only lends them moral support.

In another incident, a gunman guarding a rebel office fired at a motorcycloster, which exploded and killed six people, injured 17 others and damaged 26 houses on Saturday, police said.

The blast was so powerful that it blew up the two occupants of the vehicle and instantly killed four passengers at the village, 55 kilometres south of Kashmir.

The identity of the two people in the motorcycloster was not immediately known. The gunman fired at them when they refused to move the vehicle from outside the main gate.

Six of the injured were hospitalised in critical condition, police said. The blast damaged windows and doors at nearby houses.

On Sunday afternoon, an explosion at the Badarwah police station injured three paramilitary soldiers, police said. Details of the blast at the village, about 250 kilometres south of Srinagar, were not immediately known.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion and it was not immediately clear if it was a bomb. Two of the soldiers were in critical condition, police said.

Dozens of paramilitary soldiers who are fighting the Muslim insurrection in Kashmir live in tents in the police complex in Badarwah in Jammu province.

Kashmir is the only state in India with a Muslim majority. In the rest of India, Hindus account for 82 per cent of the 930 million population.

A dozen militant outfits have been fighting Indian soldiers to make Kashmir break away from India since 1989. Some want Kashmir to become independent, while others want it to join with Pakistan, India's arch-enemy.

## Christian fundamentalist rebels battle with Ugandan army

KAMPALA (R) — Christian fundamentalist rebels fought a running battle with Uganda army units near Kitgum, northern Uganda, in an attempt to overrun several army positions on Saturday, military officials said Sunday.

They said the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels attacked army posts north of Kitgum, close to Uganda's border with the Sudan, but were repulsed

after heavy fighting.

No casualties were reported from either side but the rebels looted property from nearby villages, the officials, contacted by telephone in Gulu, 345 km north of Kampala, said. Hundreds of villagers fled into Kitgum town for safety.

The LRA attacked close to the area where it killed 100 Sudanese refugees in an attack on their camp near

Kitgum earlier this month.

The army has deployed over 12,000 troops in northern Uganda in a bid to end the nine-year-old insurgency by rebels led by 30-year-old former catechist Joseph Kony. Five thousand army veterans have been recalled for active service.

LRA rebels have killed more than 400 people since February, when their latest offensive started.

## Sri Lankan troops brace for another offensive; 70 killed

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops braced Sunday for another onslaught against Tamil guerrillas after 10 soldiers were killed in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, taking the weekend death toll to more than 70.

An officer was among the 10 soldiers killed Sunday, the military said, but no further details were immediately available. An army source, however, said it could have been the result of a pressure mine.

The killings came a day after a sniper shot dead an army major in Jaffna. Sunday's attack was also the worst against the military in the region since the Tigers killed 13 soldiers on a bunker line two weeks ago.

The latest casualties came as hundreds of soldiers kept up a major drive against the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), after capturing a key town a day earlier south of the Jaffna peninsula.

The military took control over Jaffna, a vast region which has been a stronghold of the Tigers and the symbol of Tamil separatism, following a series of military operations begun in October.

The army seized Jaffna town in December and the rest of the peninsula in April-May. Since then, LTTE infiltrators have been staging hit-and-run attacks. A suicide bomb attack on July 4 killed 31 people.

Military officials said troops were setting up bunkers and fox holes in the town of Paranthan after advancing 10 kilometres into territory held by the LTTE early Saturday.

"There has not been much activity overnight," a military spokesman here said. "There is a process of consolidation on while long-range attacks continue against terrorist positions."

The defence ministry said troops would resume their advance into rebel territory after establishing better defences at Paranthan, which had been deserted by civilians months ago.

"The LTTE had chased civilians from the area and used all buildings and other facilities for their activities," the ministry said, adding the area was used to fire mortars at the nearby Elephant Pass army base.

After taking Paranthan, Sri Lankan troops are six kilometres from the bigger town of Kilinochchi, where the Tigers moved their political headquarters after losing Jaffna.

Seventeen soldiers were killed in fighting since Friday and nearly 60 wounded in the battle for Paranthan. The defence ministry said 42 guerrillas were also killed, but the LTTE said it lost only two fighters.

On Sunday, the LTTE, in a statement from London, said more than 100,000 people had fled Kilinochchi and its suburbs following heavy shelling by the Sri Lankan armed forces.

"Artillery shells are raining down on Tamil habitations," it said.

Military analysts say the government launched the offensive in the island's north after the LTTE overran a major military garrison in the northeastern town of Mullaitivu last week massacring more than 1,200 soldiers.

It was the worst military debacle in the dragging ethnic conflict which has claimed more than 50,000 lives.

On Saturday, army reinforcements which recaptured Mullaitivu after seven days of heavy fighting withdrew from the garrison after finding no survivors.

The government has admitted to only around 300 deaths in the military.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar admitted Sunday that the Mullaitivu debacle was "a very serious blow," but said the loss of one base did not mean much to the government in the long-term.

He told foreign correspondents that Colombo would go for further dialogue with the LTTE only if it renounced violence, surrendered a substantial quantity of arms, and agreed to time-bound talks.

## Britons want handgun ban, poll finds

LONDON (R) — Nearly three-quarters of Britons want the government to ban private ownership of handguns, an opinion poll published on Saturday found. The NOP poll for the Sunday Times newspaper found that 72 per cent of the 1,500 adults questioned favoured a ban, with 21 per cent against one.

Britons have been debating stronger restrictions on gun ownership since firearms fanatic Thomas Hamilton mowed down 16 small children and their teacher in a Scottish school gym last March. The country already has strict gun laws. Martyn Dunn, whose five-year-old daughter Charlotte was killed in the massacre, has been leading a campaign to get handguns banned. "There is no reason for anyone to have these weapons and from the reaction I get, more and more of the public want to see a total ban on privately-held handguns," the newspaper quoted Dunn as saying.

## Canada thieves grab \$3 million in coins

MONTREAL (R) — Canadian \$2 coins, valued at \$3 million (Canadian) and weighing as much as 60 metric tonnes are the objects of a police search on Sunday after a truck carrying the coins was hijacked eight days ago, police told the Canadian Press Agency. In what the royal Canadian mint is calling the largest theft of coins in the nation's history, bold thieves entered a railroad yard in central Montreal during the day, found a tractor-trailer carrying 1.5 million \$2 coins and drove off, the agency reported. "It was broad daylight and people didn't notice the disappearance of the truck," Montreal police chief inspector Robert Picard, told the news agency on Friday. The truck was found in the suburbs, minus the coins, called "toonies." Prospects for their recovery are not good, according to Joanne Tremblay, vice president of Manufacturing for the Canadian Mint. "There is no way of tracing the toonies because they are not numbered," Mr. Tremblay said. "We've produced and issued up to now about 225 million \$2 coins (this year) and I would suspect they're all identical. I wouldn't put any money on it," he replied when asked about the chances for recovery. According to Inspector Picard, who is in charge of the investigation, the money arrived in Montreal the day before the theft on Saturday, July 20. "We're not saying it was or wasn't an inside job," said Picard. "but this trailer-truck was among a lot of others. It wasn't alone. There are thousands of containers and trucks there." The inspector is more optimistic than Tremblay that the thieves will be apprehended. "If the guys use the coins to get everything they buy in their life," he said, "people are going to start to ask questions. It's not easy to get rid of."

## Cat saves 25 lives, loses two

HANAU, Germany (AFP) — A cat was the unlikely heroine in a fire overnight in the western German city of Gelnhausen, waking her master from a deep sleep as his apartment was consumed by flames, police said Sunday. Awakened by the cat's persistent miaowing, he was able to alert firemen in time for them to evacuate the building's 25 residents safe and sound — apart from the cat's two offspring, which died in the fire. The cause of the blaze was not immediately clear.

World News  
Flood victims  
relocated to

60 people  
downpour

U.S. Russia to



Britons want handgun ban, poll finds

Canada thieves grab \$3 million in coins

## Flood victims in China relocated to higher ground

**JIANLI, China (R)** — Hundreds of peasants in central China have moved their television sets, beds and stoves to higher ground, fearing the mighty Yangtze River will burst its banks after lesser floods inundated their farmland.

"We have nothing more to eat," Dong Houran, a 48-year-old farmer, said in an interview outside the makeshift tent into which he and his family of seven moved last week.

Floods have submerged Mr. Dong's 1.3 hectares of land planted with cotton, soybeans, sesame seeds and watermelons, causing 10,000 yuan (\$1,200) in economic losses.

"Life is really difficult," Mr. Dong said. "I'll have to work odd jobs after the water recedes."

Mr. Dong is one of several hundred residents of Xinshi village in Jianli county in central Hubei province who have been ordered by local authorities to move what remains of their possessions to dykes lest the Yangtze River burst its banks.

The Yangtze — Asia's longest river — had swollen to 28.66 metres, its highest level since 1954.

Devastating floods from torrential rains and overflowing rivers and tributaries have killed more than 1,600 people

across China this year, inundated millions of hectares of farmland and forced many factories to stop production.

Estimates of damage throughout China have soared to 94.1 billion yuan (\$11.3 billion) in the nine hardest-hit southern and central provinces of Anhui, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Zhejiang.

China's Red Cross Society has appealed for 4.4 million Swiss francs (\$3.64 million) in emergency aid and Beijing has allocated more than 900 million yuan (\$108 million) of aid.

With flood waters receding in many areas, a health official said the chief task now was to clean up the debris and to disinfect while preventing outbreaks of epidemic diseases.

Temperatures had climbed to 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) in Wuhan, provincial capital of Hubei, and many were suffering from heat stroke, the health official said by telephone.

Tents were needed to shelter the one million exhausted troops, police and volunteers from the sun as they lined dykes holding in the rain-swollen waters of the Yangtze near Wuhan.

With more flood peaks

roading toward Wuhan from the rain-battered upper reaches of the Yangtze, officials said they may have to divert waters in six places upstream but declined to say where embankments would be breached in an emergency.

China has been grappling with floods almost every year for centuries, and many farmers took this year's floods in stride.

"What can be done? It came from up there," Xi Shanguan, a 56-year-old farmer, said pointing to the heavens.

The Xingfu River, literally meaning "lucky", inundated 0.4 hectares (1.0 acres) of Mr. Xi's land under cotton and rice.

"We haven't had floods like this for 40 years," Mr. Xi said.

Mr. Xi, wearing a straw hat and barefoot, and workers were busy trying to salvage what was left of his crops — cutting and scooping up stalks from the flooded fields and drying them.

"If it can still be eaten, we'll eat it...If not, we'll feed it to pigs," said Mr. Xi, whose home was knee-deep in water.

Asked why there was still laughter after such huge losses, one woman said: "I'll break down into tears if I don't chat with them (neighbours)."

## 2 dead, 200 detained as violence follows Jakarta riots

**JAKARTA (AFP)** — Sporadic violence and a harsh security crackdown gripped Jakarta Sunday, a day after the city's worst rioting in nearly a quarter century left two people dead and some 200 in detention.

Thousands of armed troops clamped down on the capital Sunday, setting up roadblocks and rounding up passersby on streets where burning and looting occurred a day earlier in reaction to a police raid on an opposition party's headquarters.

Around 200 demonstrators who staged a rally for ousted Indonesian Democracy Party leader Megawati Sukarnoputri were violently dispersed by troops, with at least a dozen "savagely" beaten and hauled away, witnesses said.

A dozen armoured vehicles rolled into the Salemba suburb, where at least 12 buildings were burned Saturday, followed by another dozen trucks filled with army troops in full combat gear, a witness said.

Brigadier General Amir Syarifuddin said Jakarta was secure and the military had deployed "tight security" throughout the city to prevent further trouble.

Gen. Syarifuddin said 171 people had been detained as suspects in the riots, but state-controlled television TVRI reported later Sunday that 210 had been detained.

The military spokesman said two people had died — "one of the people died of a heart attack in the hospital, while the other one was a security guard of the burnt bank."

Three banks were among the buildings torched during the riots as were two car showrooms, an army barracks and offices belonging to the agriculture ministry.

News reports from central Cipto Mangunkusumo hospital said five people

died in the riots, but hospital officials declined comment Sunday.

Major General Sutiyoso, chief of Jakarta's coordinating security body, was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying 26 people were injured, and 22 buildings and 93 vehicles were burned in the riots.

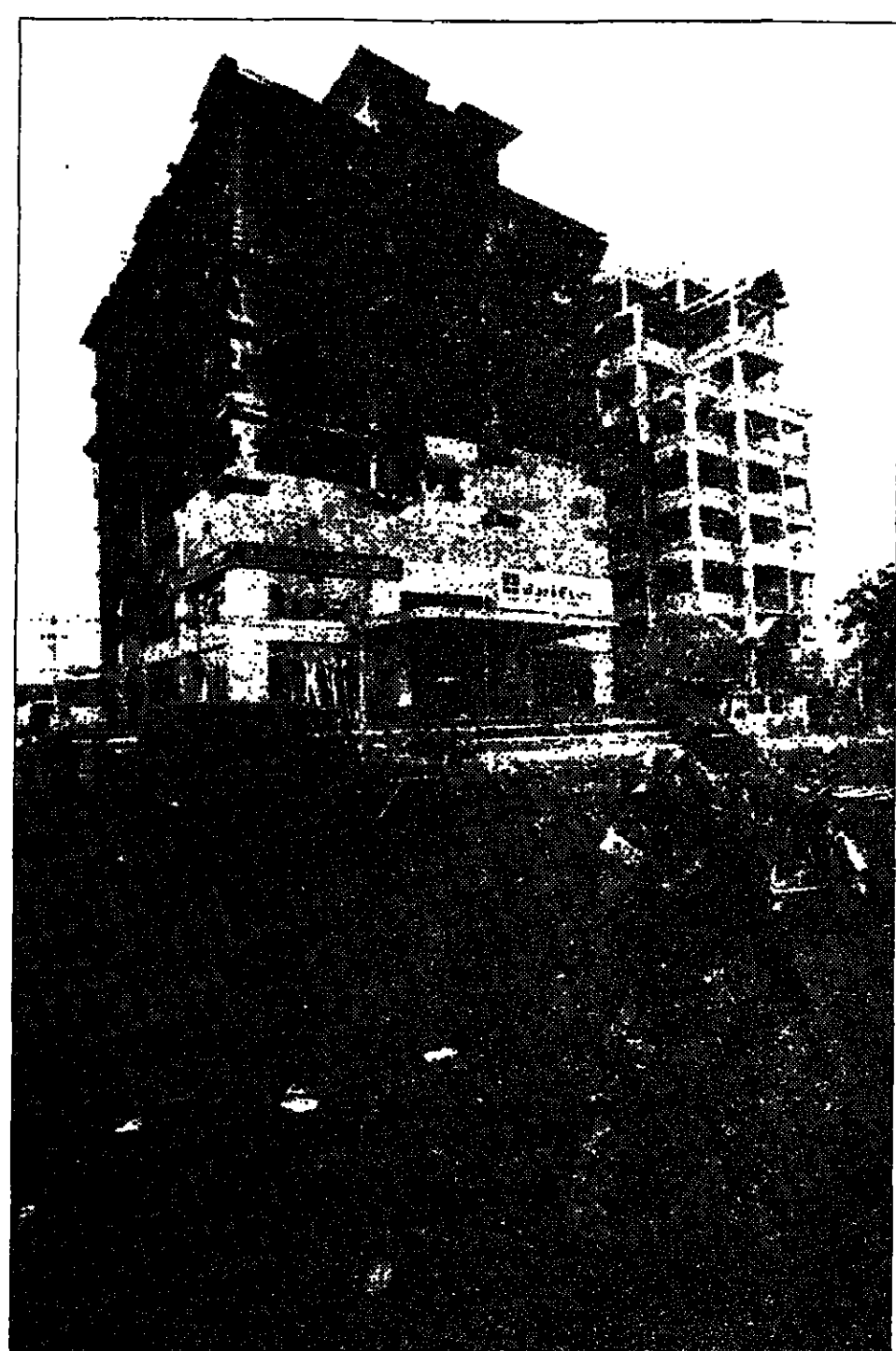
Western diplomatic sources estimated the number of demonstrators who took part in Saturday's violent clashes at between 7,000 and 10,000.

The riots began after police stormed the headquarters of the opposition Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), where supporters of Ms. Megawati had been holed up for over a month. Ms. Megawati was ousted as PDI leader by the breakaway faction at a rebel party congress last month, a meeting which was backed by the government. The government's role in opposition politics had led to widespread international criticism.

Ms. Megawati's replacement, Suryadi, has been recognised as the party's leader by President Suharto.

There are only three legal parties in Indonesia. Ms. Megawati, daughter of founding President Sukarno, is regarded as one of few people who could seriously challenge President Suharto in elections due in 1998. The unrest began Saturday morning when Ms. Megawati opponents gathered outside PDI headquarters and began throwing stones at the building. Police and supporters of Suryadi stormed the building, leaving dozens injured. Later, military troops charged at a crowd of thousands of demonstrators who refused to leave the area of the headquarters, leaving scores injured, including women and children.

Angry demonstrators



An Indonesian soldier stands opposite a damaged building in Jakarta Sunday. Several buildings were set ablaze by demonstrators during day-long riots on Saturday. The Indonesian authorities clamped down on protests in the capital a day after the worst rioting in the city for over two decades (Reuters photo)

turned to looting and burning the Salemba area in the afternoon and evening, and neither the police nor the army intervened. Ms. Megawati issued a statement Sunday condemning the storming of her party's headquarters. "We are very much against the actions as it is blatantly against the law," she said. "It is a misuse of power and some body must be made responsible." Suharto did not mention the riots in a speech at a mosque Saturday but said, "The unity of our country is the foremost capital of our people's struggle. Only with unity and high discipline can we develop a future together."

## 60 people killed in heavy downpours in S. Korea

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — Thousands of people who had fled their homes in a flood-stricken region near the North Korean border prepared to return Sunday after a two-day torrent of rain that killed 57 people.

A storm warning in effect since Saturday in most of the border regions north of Seoul was lifted Sunday afternoon. Weathermen said the unusually active low-pressure system that affected the Korean Peninsula in the past several days had retreated.

Anti-disaster government officials in Seoul said the death toll from the rainstorm, the worst since 1987, rose to 57. It also left 70 people injured and 19 missing.

Landslides, flooding and overflowing rivers created by 53 centimetres of rain that lashed the region since Saturday have caused an estimated \$10 million in damage on the South Korean side of the border.

Though North Korean media have not mentioned the storm, authorities in the South say heavy downpours have assailed the communist country's western rice belts, ravaged last year by massive floods.

Two major border towns on the South Korean side,

Yonchon and Munsan, virtually disappeared under dark brown flood waters, leaving only roofs showing. Some 50,000 residents were forced to flee to nearby highlands. All power supplies and most telephones were cut off.

"It's time to concentrate on rehabilitation," Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo said before inspecting flood-ravaged regions by helicopter.

He said the government will set aside a special budget of \$175 million to assist the rehabilitation. Mud water that once submerged homes, paddy fields, roads and railways began to recede, officials said.

Heavy downpours continued until Sunday morning, but the skies cleared in the afternoon. Thousands of police and civil volunteers were immediately mobilised to help.

Several hours after the storm warning was lifted, much of Yonchon, a city of 20,000 northeast of Seoul still remained submerged. Officials said residents could return to their homes in one or two days.

Earlier, television footage showed police in rubber boats evacuating stranded people through second-floor windows in Munsan, a city of 10,000 people

north of Seoul, near the true village of Panmunjom. Utility poles poked out from the swirling waters.

The death toll could rise as communications with isolated areas began to be restored, officials said. It included a North Korean soldier swept into the South in a rain-swollen river.

Several dikes of a tributary of the Imjin River, which flows roughly along the border of the rival Koreas, caved in at several points.

Cows and pigs were seen swept down the swift currents as police used boats to search for stranded people.

Those killed by the sudden storm included 44 soldiers who died Saturday when their barracks, built on steep hills for tactical reasons, were buried by landslides. Some units were ordered to move out into open areas.

Weather officials said the rainstorm was the worst to hit South Korea since 1987 when 100 people were killed or missing.

Last year's floods in North Korea, the worst in a century, caused property damage of \$15 billion and left half a million people homeless, according to officials there.

## 2 Zimbabwe soldiers killed in Angola

**HARARE (AFP)** — Two Zimbabwean soldiers serving with United Nations peace-keeping forces in Angola were killed when their vehicle hit a landmine Saturday, army headquarters announced here Sunday. A spokesman said four other Zimbabwean soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel, were seriously injured in the blast. He would not say where in Angola the incident occurred. Zimbabwean troops are in the Southwest African state as part of a U.N. force overseeing the peace process between the government of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and former rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

## U.S., Russia to push for ban on all nuclear tests

**GENEVA (R)** — The United States and Russia will spearhead an intensive effort starting on Monday to wrap up a global accord on one of the main arms control issues left over from the cold war — a total nuclear test ban treaty.

The two nuclear powers, backed firmly by France and with less enthusiasm by Britain, will be aiming to convince 57 other countries in the United Nations-sponsored disarmament conference to approve a treaty text by the end of the week.

But all eyes at the conference, which resumes after a month-long break, will be on India which has resolutely resisted pressure from the big four as well as its non-aligned allies to support the accord in its present form.

China also has reservations about the text on the table, but U.S. and Russian officials are confident that Beijing can be brought on board for a compromise agreement that would allow the treaty to be open for signature from September.

The pact — officially the

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty or CTBT — would add underground explosions to those in the atmosphere, in space or under water which were prohibited by the 1963 partial treaty.

That accord between the then Soviet Union, the United States and Britain was sparked by recognition in Moscow and Washington of how close the world had come to nuclear disaster during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

It was the first major arms limitation accord between the rival superpowers, but all efforts to agree an extension to cover underground blasts stumbled over mutual suspicion until the Soviet communist empire collapsed in 1991.

Even now, after nearly three years of negotiations within the conference, Washington and Moscow have only just shaped a common position — finalised in talks last week at an Asian security meeting in Jakarta.

But at that gathering India, as firm on the issue under its new centre-left government as

under the previous congress administration, refused an appeal by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher not to block the treaty this week.

With its residual fear of its powerful neighbour China and suspicion that its regional rival Pakistan has the capacity to develop nuclear weapons quickly, India also insists the treaty should set a firm target date for overall disarmament.

Delhi's adherence to the accord has always been considered vital because it is one of the so-called "threshold states" — the others are Pakistan and Israel — which could either go nuclear rapidly or perhaps already are.

Indian officials argue that unless the five admitted nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — agree to concrete steps to eliminate their arsenals, other countries would live under the shadow of nuclear blackmail.

A further complicating factor is that Pakistan has so far insisted it could not sign the treaty if India refused.

Discussions in a special CTBT committee of the disarmament conference will resume on Monday after a weekend of consultations by its chairman, Dutch diplomat Jaap Ramaker who tabled the compromise text at the end of June. U.S. and Russian officials — and most developing country delegations — are hoping that India will have decided that it will not block a consensus decision to send the text for signature at the U.N. general assembly in late September.

But the outcome may not be clear until Thursday, when key delegations address an open plenary session of the conference. U.S. arms control and disarmament agency (USDA) chief John Holm has set a news conference immediately after that meeting.

The treaty would only go officially into force once it has been signed and ratified by the five nuclear and three threshold states. But its backers in its present form say it would have moral force even without

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Cat saves 25 lives, loses 11



## Jordan Times

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### Dangerous policy

IT NOW appears certain that the new Israeli government will not heed the call of reason made by the Arabs and the international community when it comes to its policy on settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands. Israeli officials have spoken of their determination to increase the settlers' population in the West Bank from about 130,000 to 500,000 by the year 2000. This declared policy, however, has not generated the response it deserves from the U.S. which has taken upon its shoulders the responsibility of helping bring about peace and stability to the region on the basis of Security Council resolutions and the principle of land-for-peace.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly accused the Palestinians during his meetings with President Bill Clinton and U.S. administration officials of violating the Oslo deal. But Clinton failed to remind Netanyahu that his policy on settlements was a stark violation of the peace deals Israel has signed with the Palestinians and poses an enormous danger to the future of the peace process despite the bluntness with which the Likud leader pressed his hardline policies on his hosts.

U.S. officials have lately changed their description of the settlements from "an obstacle to peace" to "a complicating factor" in the peace process. Electioneering might have a lot to do with the tamed response of the U.S. to Netanyahu's pronouncements. But the major problem is not in the response of the U.S. as much as it is with the approach that Netanyahu is taking in dealing with the peace talks and his apparent intention to jeopardise the whole peace process in order to achieve certain goals based on blind ideologies and aimed at appeasing a few Israelis who do not want to live in peace with their Arab neighbours.

Beefing up the settlements in the occupied Palestinian land could result in the failure of the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians and could lead to an intifada-like violence in the Palestinian territories. Netanyahu must realise that he cannot have peace and security and the land on top of that. Settlements constitute a time bomb that could explode at any moment. Neither the Palestinians nor the rest of the Arabs will be able to accept a peace under which Israel continues to violate international law and the agreements it has made with them. The Israeli state itself should not accept endangering the whole peace process for the sake of fulfilling the fantasies of a few hardliners or appeasing a few thousand settlers whose vision for the future of the region is one that is certain to generate more conflict and disasters for their people, for the Arabs and for all those who have an interest in a stable Middle East.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

CONDEMNING THE bomb attack in Atlanta, a writer for Al Ra'i said Sunday that this terrorist act manifests a political and moral bankruptcy on the part of the perpetrators. This act is condemned by all peace-loving people since the Olympics represent an occasion for the people on earth to meet in an atmosphere of unity, affection and peaceful coexistence, said Mahmoud Rifawi. The crime, which caused the death of two people and the injury of nearly a hundred more, has targeted innocent civilians among the spectators and the athletes taking part in this international festivity, something that can only be condemned in the strongest manner, he said. This outrageous act reflects a blind hatred of mankind and is committed against a group of peace-loving, innocent civilians, he added. In the writer's view, it was not the United States that was targeted by this bomb attack but rather the innocent civilians gathered from around the globe to rejoice and enjoy the Olympics champions' achievements. He said this barbaric attack was directed against all nations.

A WRITER for Al Dustour expressed the view that the cleaning of streets in Amman and other towns should be the task of the private sector which can do the job more efficiently and for less cost. Ahmad Shaker said that in Zarqa, the private sector has assumed this job and proved that it can carry out the task at 30 per cent less cost. Instead of spending JD 15 million every year on cleaning up Amman, the capital's municipality can save a fortune by following the example of the Zarqa Municipality by entrusting this task to the private sector companies, suggested the writer. He said funds saved in the process could be utilised to carry out development projects and, furthermore, the move would encourage the private sector to invest in this area and employ thousands of Jordanians to carry out the work for higher pay than the wages offered normally by the municipalities. The writer said a tender announcing such a service to the private sector would create competition among the interested firms which would outbid one another to do the job at less cost and with better efficiency.

### Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## Taxing foreign exchange transactions

IN THE last few weeks there were rumours about the devaluation of the dinar, possibly a devaluation that mirrors in size the one which occurred in 1989. Speculation fast dominated the transactions of the exchange market, especially short-term transactions; and many people started hoarding dollars, usually viewed as long-term investments, even though the interest on dollar accounts is almost half the interest on dinar-denominated accounts, which indicates that the expected devaluation is more than five per cent.

The government must be, therefore, facing the dilemma of having to convince both the short-term speculator and the ordinary risk-averse account holder to hold on to their dinar accounts. A recent article in The Economist suggests the use of the "Tobin tax" as a method to curb short-term speculation.

Professor James Tobin, one of the early Nobel laureates in economics and one of the most influential advisors in the Kennedy administration, suggested over twenty years ago a tax on foreign exchange transactions, which became known as the "Tobin tax", to deter short-term currency speculation and give governments a greater influence on their currencies. In spite of the prestige and respect its author enjoyed both in academia and the corridors of the powers-that-be, the idea of the tax was considered impractical and was not taken seriously. However, the Tobin tax has been in vogue for the past five years or so and it seems to carry some appeal, at least among academic scribblers.

The economic justifications for a Tobin tax are: foreign exchange markets are not always efficient because they are usually driven by short-term speculation rather than long-run concerns; additionally, the tax would decrease the incentive for frequent buying and selling of a currency for minor gains; and the tax would be an added source of revenue for the government which could help finance badly needed infrastructure projects.

The idea, however, may prove to be impractical as some people would shift their exchange transactions to tax free havens to avoid the tax; and people with their ingenious resourcefulness, as policy makers through the centuries have found out, would quickly discover ways to manoeuvre around the tax — for example, to avoid the tax one could swap bonds across countries instead of currency. Such problems can be overcome by taxing the transaction

in the trader's country or making the tax low enough for the cost of evading it to become financially unjustifiable.

Is the Tobin tax a good idea? It depends. Many of its supporters stress the inefficiency of the foreign exchange market that is created by speculators who tend to follow rumours and expect their hunches to become trends that will persevere. Also, foreign exchange investors in Jordan, where the government has adamantly defended the exchange rate of the dinar through higher interest rates, may believe that the government is not willing to raise the interest rate any higher and, therefore, force the dinar downwards by excessively short-selling or even dumping the dinar. Under such regimes, a Tobin tax will definitely curb some speculators' zeal.

Will the tax be able to reduce the overall speculative pressure on the dinar? The answer is in the negative, especially if such a measure is introduced in the present time, because such a tax would definitely give legitimacy to the speculators' myths and dragons and cause a dinar-dumping rush.

Furthermore, such a tax would be ineffective in curbing the downwards pressure on the dinar which may result from the continued Netanyahu closure of the West Bank and Gaza and the other Israeli retaliatory policies which endanger the income and wealth base of the people on both sides of the river.

As the economic hardships for the people in the West Bank and Gaza persist, they will have to dip into their savings to survive the mass punishment and spend from an estimated 500 million dinars, almost one third of the stock of Jordan's currency in circulation. As the dinar gets exchanged for dollars or Israeli shekels, it may lose some of its exchange value as an increase in the supply of dinars bids downwards its relative price. Punishment of a people for the sins of a few — a policy which has proven to breed more poverty, less peace, enduring hatred and more violence — may also have an adverse effect on the exchange rate of the dinar and the Jordanian economy.

The Tobin tax is a new-old idea; it will do little towards stabilising the dinar whose price is driven by short-term speculation which is caused not by Jordanian wrongs but by deeds of aggression in the region.

Will our partners in the peace process understand this? Better still, do they believe that it is better to have a wealthy neighbour than a poor one? Only time will tell.

M. KAHIL



## Global warming — no more 'junk science'

By Gwynne Dyer

THE "WHITE House effect" has finally been applied to the greenhouse effect. If you are planning to be alive much past 2010, or have children who will be, this is very good news.

George Bush first promised to use the White House's power to cut carbon dioxide emissions during the 1988 election campaign, but he ran for cover when U.S. industries complained that it might cost them profits. For the past eight years, official U.S. policy has been that there should be only "voluntary" controls (i.e., none).

Now, however, it is Bill Clinton's reelection campaign, and there just might be some votes in trying to save the world. So on July 17, at the International Climate Change Conference in Geneva, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth announced a dramatic reversal of American policy.

"Our approach here is to have a straight target that everybody has to sign up," said Mr. Wirth. "What we want is a binding target for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions that is agreed internationally." Though it

will not produce any immediate results, this is probably the most important event of the year.

The International Climate Change Conference has just wound up without agreeing on what the target should be. Ten per cent cuts by 2005? Twenty per cent cuts? That will be decided in the next eight months, on the basis of how much emissions must be cut to hold the global temperature rise to 2 degrees centigrade (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

That target then gets approved by the next conference in Japan a year from now, but it will be several more years before the major industrial countries ratify the accord and work out policies for applying it to their own territory. Nothing new is really going to start happening much before the turn of the century — and even a 2-degree rise in global temperature may mean drought and starvation to millions of people.

Dancing in the streets would therefore be a bit premature, but a major corner has been turned: the principle of universal, mandatory cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions has been accepted by the international community. The forces of darkness

have been defeated.

"Forces of darkness"? Isn't that a bit strong? Surely those who doubt the reality of global warming are also entitled to try to make their case. Well, yes — but it is all too obvious that the doubters are precisely those who fear they will lose money if greenhouse-gas emissions are restricted.

Eileen Claussion, who led the American delegation at the climate conference, was quite blunt about who they are and how they operate: "They are a very strong group of people who muddy the science. We call them the Naysayers."

The Naysayer with the highest profile is Don Pearlman, an American lawyer. At every international political conference and scientific meeting on climate change for the past several years his lobbyists have been present to challenge the wording of documents and obscure the clarity of the scientists' conclusions. Pearlman will not say who he works for, but he is usually seen in the company of Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti delegates.

Those countries oppose greenhouse-gas restrictions because the market for fos-

sil fuels will go into a steep decline if the industrial countries start cutting carbon-dioxide emissions and then who will buy their oil? (Australia, a major coal exporter, was also allied with the Naysayers at Geneva).

**"...in 30 years southern England will be warm enough for malaria-bearing mosquitoes, Paris will have the climate of the south of France — and Spain will be mostly a desert."**

But Pearlman and the fossil-fuel exporters were not nearly as effective as the misleadingly named Global Climate Coalition. It sounds like an environmental-friendly group, but its membership includes the "Seven Sisters" (oil giants Shell, Texaco, Exxon, British Petroleum, Amoco, Chevron and Mobil), plus Ford and General Motors, Dow Chemicals and Union Carbide, the Air Transport Association, and other big energy users like the aluminium industry.

With apparently limitless funds at its disposal, the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) has worked to convince the world's media and the U.S. Congress that global warming is an "open question" about which it would be premature to actually do anything. It publicises the findings of any scientist who denies the validity of the evidence for global warming — what the World

Wide Fund for Nature calls "junk science paid for by the oil and coal lobbies." Its strategy is sabotage, confusion and delay.

So what has finally defeated the best efforts of these powerful, well-funded lobbyists? One word: fear.

Fear that more severe storms caused by global warming may gut the insurance industry. Pay-outs for storm damage in 1990-95 already total \$48 billion, three times the figure for all of the 1980s, and 58 international insurance companies went to Geneva to demand "early substantial reductions" in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Fear that melting polar ice

and rising sea levels may drown some entire small countries that are made up of low-lying islands, like Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Maldives and Tonga, and swamp big chunks of densely populated countries like Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

Fear, above all, that it is already too late to stop global temperatures from going up a couple of degrees, and that only urgent action will forestall even more drastic changes. Two weeks before the Geneva conference, British Environment Secretary John Gummer announced the results of a study predicting that in 30 years southern England will be warm enough for malaria-bearing mosquitoes. Paris will have the climate of the south of France — and Spain will be mostly a desert.

So the 150 countries at Geneva have bulldozed the Naysayers aside and started down the long, hard road to controlling greenhouse-gas emissions. The economic and social implications will ultimately be huge, though some years will pass before people begin to feel a direct impact on their lifestyles. And of course, nobody can guarantee that it is not already too late.

But at last we have agreement in principle to try. That is worth a lot.

### Human Rights File

## Safe street crossing should be a right

By Waleed M. Sadi

HARDLY A day passes by without one hearing about somebody being run over by a vehicle.

The sight of children trying to cross streets on their way to school or home is also a reminder of the perils found in street crossing. What is puzzling though, is that in spite of the daily carnage on our roads, the concerned authorities have done nothing whatsoever to address the situation.

How many schoolchildren must die and how many pedestrians must be killed before someone, somewhere up there in government takes note of the crisis and starts doing something about it? Is it possible that our officials are so blind to the problem that they can no longer notice with compassion the plight of people of all ages trying to cross thoroughfares in the country with unimaginable risk to their lives and well-being? With all the talk about human rights and democracy, the right to life should come first.

In practically all the advanced countries of the world, policemen are placed around schools to help pupils reach schools safely. Most schools in developed countries even have their own personnel assist pupils cross the streets safely.

In countries like ours, where there are still few traffic lights, the need for other measures to help pedestrians traverse streets safely becomes all the more pressing.

When pedestrian-related accidents increased to phenomenal proportions on University Road, the government made a move to redress the problem, by building a tunnel or two for students to use for crossing the street. The belated action on University Road was taken only when the rate of road fatality jumped to scary proportions.

Must we wait till the same thing happens on other streets before our authorities start doing something? Does it take so much money or ingenuity to stop traffic for pedestrians? Certainly not. All that is needed is a political will and a demonstration of care for and concern about human life in the country to end the threats to life on our roads.

We use enough rhetoric

about human worth in our midst and when it comes to saving lives in the most elementary manner we seem to remain callous and indifferent. This is what can and should be done in the most immediate way to alleviate the problem: first, enforce observing stop signs. Our drivers still interpret stop signs as "go signs".

On more than one occasion, the Traffic Department was invited to police more effectively the stop sign. Nothing has been done on that score yet. Second, more pedestrian crossings should be made available especially where there are no traffic lights. Such crossings though, could become death traps if they are not policed properly and efficiently. The heaviest fines should be imposed on all drivers who do not respect such designated crossing areas.

Until Jordanian drivers acquire the habit of safe driving and respect for crossing areas, traffic policemen should be assigned in and around them. I personally have not seen one single driver even slow-down when approaching street crossing areas. There are no policemen to be found in the vicinity of these areas, which adds credence to the widespread belief among drivers that the respect for crossing zones should be as faint as the paint with which they are coloured.

Even more important are the crossing points for children, especially around schools. Surely the concerned authorities can easily make a more determined effort to assist these most vulnerable groups. Again the use of clearly painted crossing stripes should be clearly visible all around schools and on all arteries leading to them.

This modest blueprint for safe street crossing is inexpensive, to say the least.

All that is needed is the political will, the concern and attention of our authorities. This does not require great ingenuity or public expenditure either, but greater appreciation of the problem and the determination and sensitivity to do something about it. Now is the time for action. Now is the time to save the lives of people who are recklessly and negligently killed every day in our streets.

Feature

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Continued from page 11

...the U.S. Congress that global warming is an "open question" about which it would be premature to actually do anything. It publicises the findings of any scientist who denies the validity of the evidence for global warming — what the World Wide Fund for Nature calls "junk science paid for by the oil and coal lobbies." Its strategy is sabotage, confusion and delay.

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## Features

Jordan Times, Monday, July 29, 1996

7

# 'Improving nutrition is of supreme importance to millions of people'

The following is an executive summary of a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report prepared for the World Trade Summit to take place between Nov. 13-17, 1996, in Rome, Italy.

**IMPROVING NUTRITION** is an issue of supreme importance to many millions of people throughout the world who are suffering from persistent hunger and malnutrition, and to others who are at risk of doing so in the future.

There is general consensus today that a complex set of causes determines hunger and malnutrition. Important causes relate to food and agriculture, but also to people's knowledge and behaviour. Policies have a strong influence on all causes. This paper examines the relationships between food, agriculture and nutrition and outlines nutritional-improvement policies which offer the promise of bringing about rapid and sustained improvement.

Malnutrition may be viewed from three different perspectives: as lack of basic human right, as a symptom of broader poverty and underdevelopment problems or as a cause of these poverty and underdevelopment problems. There are powerful arguments for all three perspectives, and in terms of considering specific actions, the three are certainly complementary.

In order to design effective policies, it is necessary to gain a clear understanding of the links between food, agriculture and nutrition as well as all determinants of nutritional well-being.

Food and the security of its supply are preconditions for nutritional well-being. Poverty is a major determinant of food insecurity and poor health; the poor lack adequate means to obtain food in the quantities

and qualities needed for a healthy life. In addition, food insecurity and hunger in a number of countries are caused primarily by armed conflicts or are actually instruments used to conduct such conflicts.

**"An estimated 481 million people are hungry. Some 190 million children are underweight, 230 million children are stunted, and 50 million children are wasted."**

The significance of agriculture in improving nutrition is due first to its principal role, i.e., the production of food of the desired quality and quantity, and second to its role in directly and indirectly providing employment and income to the poor throughout the economy, particularly in low-income countries.

Health, sanitation and the care given to vulnerable members of society have a strong influence on nutrition. Malnutrition leads to substantial losses in productivity and the misallocation of scarce resources due to decreased work performance, diminished cognitive ability and school performance.

Exactly how many households and individuals are malnourished is unknown due to definitional and measurement difficulties and inadequate data. Any overview of best estimates of major nutritional problems must emphasise the following:

— An estimated 481 million people are hungry (food-energy deficient), i.e., 20 per cent of the developing countries' populations. This figure does not include the hungry in industrialised countries and in economies in transition.

— Some 190 million children are underweight, 230 million children are stunted, and 50 million children are wasted. The last figure indicates a much greater number of children over time, as it entails considerable fluctuations. Nutritional problems resulting in underweight are also prevalent among adults and adolescents in developing countries.

— Vitamin A deficiency is a public health problem in at least 60 countries. Some 40 million children are suffering from vitamin A deficiency. About 29 per cent of the world's population is at risk of iodine deficiency. Worldwide, about two billion people are affected by iron deficiency, a condition to which women and preschool children are particularly prone.

— The problem of under-

nutrition is paralleled by extensive and growing public-health problems, like overweightness and obesity, not only in rich-versus-poor countries, but also within low- and middle-income countries, and especially in urban areas.

It is necessary to fulfil a number of preconditions before it is possible to conduct sustained actions to improve nutrition, and the specific actions needed to tackle a given country's nutritional problems vary according to the situation. These often unfulfilled preconditions include: appropriate macroeconomic policies and development strategies (with related trade, storage and food-aid policies, where applicable), which are a precondition for a functioning economy capable of employment-intensive growth; policies and programmes for increasing agricultural production and raising productivity in low-income countries, which are a precondition for future security of adequate nutrition; effective national and international agricultural research systems play a key

role in achieving this pre-condition of sustainable nutritional improvement.

The range of specific action to be taken varies from one country to another and includes: programmes for reducing poverty (including employment and infrastructure-improvement programmes); sustainable food- and nutrition-related transfer programmes (such as food subsidies and food stamps), which address the immediate causes of malnutrition of the poor as much as feasible; direct nutrition and health interventions (e.g. targeted feeding, micro-nutrient programmes, nutrition education, integrated nutrition programmes, sanitation and health actions, relief programmes), which address both the short- and long-term symptoms and causes of nutritional problems, including those of higher income groups, by focusing on changing behaviour.

Building upon past international commitments and ongoing initiatives for nutritional improvement, the paper sets priority areas of attention and actions addressing:

— The malnutrition/mortality cycle with clearly defined targets for measurably reducing malnutrition.

— Human-resource development for nutrition, including attention to actions facilitating reduced population growth.

— The promotion of employment-intensive growth, especially through agricultural growth promotion and through employment programmes for the poor.

— Famine, prevention, including mechanisms for preventing famines related to armed conflicts.

— The facilitation of community and household self-help through education and empowerment, especially of women.

Any consideration of the costs of nutritional improvement must also take into account the benefits which would be forfeited through non-action. Focusing on (fiscal) spending and ignoring the resultant benefits is misleading. The guiding principle in considering the cost aspects of improving nutrition must be to achieve the defined nutritional goals rapidly and sustainably through the

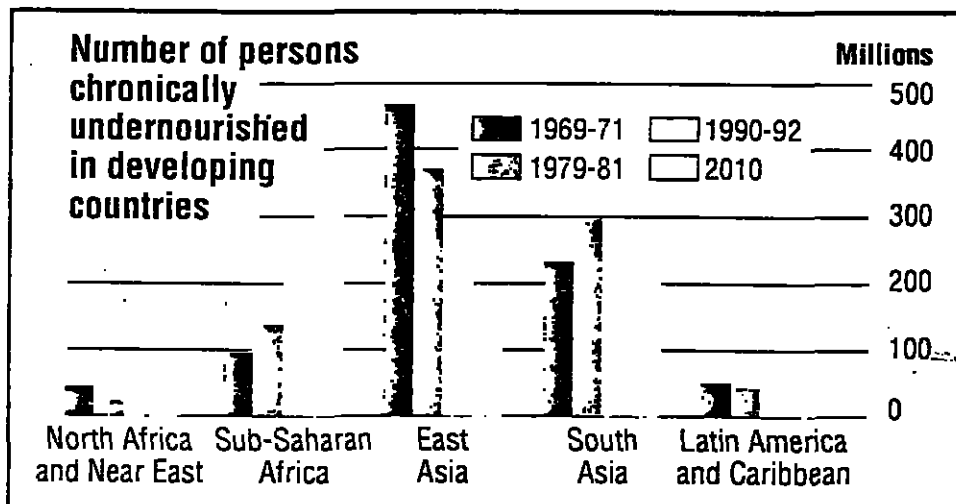
use of a portfolio of the most cost-effective policy instruments.

Only if the urgency and significance of the food security and nutritional situation are readily apparent will appropriate action be taken and the international support for such action be sustained. The availability of organisational capacity is a prerequisite for monitoring changes in the nutritional situation and for evaluating the effects of nutritional policies and programmes.

It is imperative that the governmental organisations, particularly ministries as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in nutritional improvement activities be well-coordinated at the national level. Such coordination can be stimulated by international organisations, but often lacks a well-established framework. It is necessary to develop national strategies and to create a legal basis for mandatory coordination at the national level in order to ensure that actions aimed at food-security and nutritional improvement are sustained and consistent. This will

actually reduce bureaucracy if all nutritional improvement efforts are coordinated by a problem-oriented, lean management structure.

Past international initiatives regarding food and nutrition stimulated food-security and nutritional improvement actions. Drawing upon new insights, new global circumstances and new forms of cooperation, the World Food Summit offers an opportunity to build on past initiatives. The creation of a transparent and reliable international reporting system for measuring national progress in achieving nutritional well-being (e.g. reducing in the proportion and number of underweight children and other relevant indicators) will be instrumental in creating the proper political incentives for implementing the needed actions. The follow-ups to previous international commitments, i.e. the World Summit for Children and the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), have gone in the right direction, and this approach should be reinforced.



In 2010, some 730 million people still may not have enough to eat, a number nearly equal to the total combined population of North America and Europe today. Over 300 million of these people would be in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Imports, crop failure cause Pacific food worries

By Chris Peteru  
Reuter

**APIA, Western Samoa** — Gathering fresh food has seldom been a problem for people in the small islands of the south Pacific, but a growing mountain of imports is having a far-reaching impact on the way they live.

Cyclones and pests have caused recent crop failures in several island nations, compounding the food problems they face. Fast food giant McDonalds, which this year opened in Fiji and Western Samoa, is the latest arrival among a stream of food manufac-

turers altering the traditional diet of the region's 1.3 million people.

Dedric de Valuschwauer, a spokesman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told 100 delegates from 27 Asian and Pacific nations at a recent conference in Western Samoa that island diets needed more vegetables and unprocessed foods. The proportion of calories derived from vegetables had halved to below 20 per cent in the last five years.

Unlike their Asian neighbours, home to half a billion malnourished people, Pacific islanders are more

prone to eating too much cholesterol and sugar-loaded food.

One result has been a surge in deaths caused by heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Varieties of fresh fish, coconut cream and yams, the staple foods for islanders, were now competing with a demand for cheap tinned fish, meat offcuts, and fizzy drinks. Pacific islanders consider these as luxury goods, in a region where the average wage is \$22 a week.

Geographically isolated and limited by land and financial resources, Pacific island countries are also finding themselves on the

wrong end of the trade liberalisation movement being espoused by developed countries.

"Fewer people are willing to work the land, and while food security is a concern, if this dependency on imported food continues we are at the mercy of forces beyond our control," said Vanuatu Agriculture Minister Vincent Boulekone.

Vanuatu, Tonga, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands, spend on average over \$2.1

million each per year importing food — a high proportion of national income.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) say the quality of imports is frequently substandard.

"Pacific NGOs are seriously concerned about the dumping of food products from other countries to vulnerable Pacific nations. Because of low prices, standards are very poor, and in some cases the goods are not accepted in their own

countries," said Koroseta To'o, spokesman for 20 NGOs at the conference.

"The situation now is basically one of continued neo-colonialism where our farmers can't compete with bigger countries who can offer lower prices, then leave us high and dry," he said.

Natural disasters have also created food production problems special to the Pacific.

In the last five years, cyclones have flattened

sugar cane crops in Fiji and Tongan squash destined for Japanese markets.

In the rush to recover, over-production saw the price of both commodities spiral downwards, costing millions of dollars in overseas revenues.

A taro blight that spread to Western Samoa in 1993 destroyed the main diet staple and an industry that was earning \$400,000 a month. Poor quarantine measures have recently seen the giant African snail wreak havoc

on crops around the Pacific. The pest can be contained, but there is little hope of eradication.

A FAO office for the Pacific with eight technical advisers based in Apia, the Western Samoan capital, was opened at the start of the conference.

"It won't solve all the region's food problems, but it will help provide some answers," said Tongan Director Vilf Fuavao.

## Mubarak's visit to U.S. aims at reinforcing principle of land-for-peace

(Continued from page 1)

spokesman Nicholas Burns expressed hope that an agreement over nuclear arms would be reached leading Israel to sign the treaty. Pressed by reporters if that meant the U.S. considered Israel a recognised nuclear power, Mr. Burns declined to comment further.

Analysts say, however, that despite the differences between Egypt and the U.S., Washington was relying on the Egyptians and Jordanians in keeping the peace process alive.

Furthermore, Washington is interested in getting Egypt to bring Damascus back to the negotiating table without Syria's demand for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Well-informed Arab sources in Washington say that Egypt was not likely to accept persuading Syria into accepting an Israeli proposal of withdrawal from South Lebanon unless that was part of an Israeli

commitment to pull out from the Golan Heights as well.

But Egypt is also dependent on U.S. financial aid and that has been traditionally linked to Cairo's compliance with the terms of the American-sponsored peace process.

Mr. Mubarak, diplomats and analysts in Washington say, will also face an anti-Syrian lobby in both Houses of Congress that has been pushing relentlessly for stricter measures against Syria "as a terrorist state."

Over the last week, at least two hearings on Syria's role in backing "terrorism" were held by the Congress in an effort to pressure the administration to isolate Syria.

Many members of the Republican-dominated Senate and House of Representatives support calls by Mr. Netanyahu to declare Syria as "a rogue state."

But the administration so far has resisted these calls. At one of the congressional hearing the official at the State Department dealing

with terrorism, Philip Wilcox, argued strongly that there was no evidence that linked Syria directly to any terrorist attacks against the U.S.

When pro-Israeli congressmen argued that Syria was hosting and backing radical Palestinian movements, Mr. Wilcox replied that none of these organisations have been involved in terrorist acts against America.

But in the second hearing, the House committee listened to a lengthy testimony by pro-Israeli producer Steve Emerson who urged the Congress to take immediate steps against Syria to make it comply with American and Israeli conditions.

Consequently, Mr. Mubarak is expected to come under a lot of pressure to get Syria back to the negotiating table. Arab diplomats in Washington, however, say that Mr. Mubarak was going to argue that Israel should comply with the principle of land-for-peace for the survival of the peace process.

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## Study says world grain land shrinking

WASHINGTON (R) — Expanding cities around the world have helped shrink the acreage used per person for food production by 30 per cent since 1950, a report by a Washington study group said Sunday.

The Worldwatch Institute said the land used for grain production has fallen to 0.30 acres (0.12 hectares) per person last year from 0.57 acres (0.23 hectares) in 1950.

The 1995 figure was equivalent to about a quarter of an American football field, the institute said in a report titled: Shrinking Fields.

Because many cities started on good farmland, the spread of roads, buildings and industrial parks inevitably eats up some of the most productive remaining land, the report said.

"At least five per cent of China's cropland was lost in only six years (1986-1992), in part to urban expansion and industrialisation," Gary Gardner, the author of the report, said.

Increasing affluence in the Third World, leading to higher demand for meat and dairy products, has driven a huge boom in the world's need for grains. Coupled with poor crops, this has led to world grain reserves falling to just 48 days of usage.

"If we fail to halt heavy losses of cropland, it is unlikely that we will be able to feed a world population that will increase by more than 400 million people in just five years," Worldwatch said.

Mr. Gardner said that, by allowing increasing urbanisation, governments were gambling on indefinite increases in grain yields.

Dennis Avery, an agricultural analyst at the Hudson Institute, criticised the report. Improving technology would continue to boost yields faster than population growth at least until the population peaked at around nine billion in 2040, he said. Cities covered only 1.4 per cent of the world's surface now, growing to 3.5 per cent in 2040, an insignificant amount when compared with arable land, which covers a third of the globe, Mr. Avery said.

## Sudan's finance minister rules out demanded pay raise by workers

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's finance minister said raising workers' wages would not improve their situation amid union demands for a wage hike to face the rising cost of living, the daily Akhbar Al Youm reported Sunday.

"Salary hikes do not solve problems of wage earners because they usually just lead to the rise of prices in the market," Sabir Mohammad Al Hassan said, quoted by the paper.

"Stabilisation of commodity prices and reducing the rate of inflation" would be more effective, he said.

A recommendation by the government's High Council on Wages for around a 50 per cent increase in wages "is only a proposal and has not been submitted to the cabinet," he added.

The head of the Workers Trade Union Federation, Taj Al Sir Abdun, who has threatened a general strike to protest government "neglect" of workers, met Saturday night with President Omar Al Bashir to discuss workers' demands.

Afterwards he said President Bashir had agreed to continue meetings between the union and officials "to implement the high council's recommendations on raising the pay of workers."

The High Council on Wages, representing both employers and employees, has recommended that monthly pay for workers be raised by a minimum 6,000 Sudanese pounds (\$6) or a maximum 26,000 pounds (\$26).

President Bashir ordered subsidies on basic commodities be continued, Mr. Abdun said.

He also ordered the finance ministry to pay workers some three billion pounds (\$3 million) in extra wages owed from the last pay increase decided in January.

The High Council on Wages, which meets every six months, called for a 50 per cent wage hike last January and the cabinet approved it. But the union insists most workers have not received the pay raise.

Social Planning Minister

Majzub Al Khalifa said President Bashir agreed at the meeting to increase workers' transport allowances to deal with rising transport costs.

He said subsidies would remain on lentils, rice, beans, cooking oil, soap, meat, flour, wheat, sugar and honey.

In early July, the federation, which represents some two million workers from the public and private sectors, threatened a general strike to protest government "neglect" in the rising cost of living.

The minimum monthly wage for workers of 15,000 Sudanese pounds (around \$15) "does not meet even 10 per cent of a subsistence living standard for a five-member family," Mr. Abdun said earlier.

Mr. Abdun predicted "dire consequences" from a surprise hike in gas prices ordered by the government in early June, increasing fuel costs around 40 per cent.

## Singapore seen to be seventh richest country by 1999

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore is expected to be the world's seventh richest country in four years, leaping eight places up from its current position, according to a forecast published Sunday.

Singapore's per capita gross domestic product (GDP), or the average annual income of Singaporeans, could hit \$30,432 in 1999, up from \$24,500 now, the forecast said.

The forecast was made by the research and information department of Singapore Press Holdings and published by the Sunday Times.

GDP was projected to grow by 5.77 per cent a year for the next four years, which the report called a "fairly conservative estimate" compared to government predictions of six-to-eight per cent long-term growth.

The island of three million people would be the only new country to leap into the ranks of the top 10 richest countries, displacing Austria from its seventh spot, the report said.

The per capita GDP, derived by dividing the country's total output by its population, is commonly used as a measure of a country's wealth.

Luxembourg would rank as the world's richest, with an annual per capita income of \$57,682, followed by Japan (\$42,505) and Switzerland (\$41,425), the report said.

This small, prosperous city-state, which sits astride

one of the world's busiest searoutes, has seen living standards rise steadily, guided by the government's export-driven economic strategy.

The Port of Singapore — the world's second busiest after Hong Kong — serves both as a trading and distribution hub for fast-growing South East Asia and as a major trans-shipment point linking the region to the rest of the world. Singapore is also an important manufacturing base for high value-added production as well as a major regional financial centre.

More than 90 per cent of Singaporeans own their homes, helped by an envied public housing programme, and one in three households has a car.

opment cooperation adopted by 21 DAC countries just over a month ago of resources to developing countries, which showed that OECD official aid dropped by 9.3 per cent in real terms to \$53.7 billion last year, Mr. Michel told a news conference that the rise in private flows — including direct investment, bank lending and bond issues — was encouraging, but said it "cannot substitute" for development aid.

## Sri Lanka raises bread, flour prices

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka raised the prices of wheat flour and bread by up to 15 per cent Sunday, the second increases in four months, officials said.

The sharp rise is bound to have a major impact on the official cost of living index, which gives a substantial weighting to the price of bread, subsidised in order to provide a low inflation figure, private bankers said.

The wholesale price of a kilogramme of flour was raised from 12.00 rupees (24 U.S. cents) to 13.50 rupees (27 U.S. cents) with immediate effect. In April the price of bread and flour, staple food in urban communities, was raised by five per cent.

## OECD warns against marginalisation of poor countries

PARIS (AFP) — A top OECD official has welcomed a continued major rise in private financial flows to developing countries in 1995, but warned that a sharp fall in official aid could entail growing marginalisation of poor countries.

James Michel, chairman of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), said declining aid could undermine the credibility of new long-term objectives for devel-

opment cooperation adopted by 21 DAC countries just over a month ago of resources to developing countries, which showed that OECD official aid dropped by 9.3 per cent in real terms to \$53.7 billion last year, Mr. Michel told a news conference that the rise in private flows — including direct investment, bank lending and bond issues — was encouraging, but said it "cannot substitute" for development aid.

## High German wages, taxes a myth — IFO institute

FRANKFURT (R) — The respected IFO economic research institute has weighed into the fray over Germany's competitiveness, saying wages and taxes are not unduly high and do not deter foreign investors.

In a study commissioned by the economics ministry, the institute said German firms were not at a major disadvantage against international rivals and, echoing the nation's trade unions, said high productivity justified high wages.

"The complaints about excessive labour costs are for the most part politically motivated," the Munich-based institute said, saying German corporate competitiveness had been undermined chiefly by the mark's appreciation.

The study's conclusions will likely fan the flames of a debate raging across Germany about wages, working conditions and the

welfare state.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government, battling heavy deficits and heeding employer complaints of excessive corporate taxes and labour costs, is trying to ram through a controversial package of spending cuts and labour reform.

But unions and the opposition SPD Social Democrats have promised to fight the austerity package, arguing it is simply a transfer of funds from the poor to the rich and ignores the productivity gains squeezed from workers in the past few years.

The IFO study recommended cutting non-labour wage costs and the tax burden on companies, saying it could help create jobs. But it said unit wage costs — which take productivity into account — were lower in west Germany than in the U.S., Japan, Britain or France and had not risen excessively since 1980.

Japan topped the league of unit wage costs, IFO said.

In addition, workers' real incomes had not risen more slowly in any of those four nations than in Germany.

The institute added however that the comparison was less favourable when it focused only on industry. Industrial unit wage costs were clearly higher than in France and the U.S. and "somewhat" higher than Britain.



"We all dress casual on Fridays. The gang in Accounting is starting a nudist colony."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison

Unscramble three Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHURS  
TCHAB  
THACAT  
FLADGY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BILGE GNOME LEVITY TURKEY  
Answer: The result of shopping for that perfect dress — A "TRYING" TIME

## Peanuts





## Japanese bank bad debt tops \$316 billion

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese financial institutions held a total of 34,799 billion yen (\$316.4 billion) in bad loans at the end of the year to March, the finance ministry said.

The ministry was revising its previous calculation of loans to bankrupt borrowers, past due loans and restructured loans held by deposit-taking financial institutions from 34,680 billion yen released May 24.

The figure represents almost the annual gross domestic product of South Korea, or three times that of Hong Kong.

The ministry said bad loans at the end of September 1995 totalled 38,086 billion yen.

It said bad loans held by city banks totalled 12,418 billion yen, bad loans held by long-term credit banks totalled 3,433 billion yen and bad loans by trust banks totalled 6,017 billion yen.

The ministry said that of the 21,868 billion yen worth of bad loans held by the major banks, 3,035 billion yen were to bankrupt borrowers, 10,077 billion yen past due and 8,755 billion yen restructured.

## Investment in Egypt doubles

CAIRO (AFP) — Domestic and foreign investment more than doubled in Egypt in the first quarter of 1996 compared to the same period in 1995, the head of the State Investment Organisation Ibrahim Fawzi has said. Total investment stood at 7.81 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion), up from 3.35 billion pounds (\$980 million) in 1995, Mr. Fawzi told the government daily Al-Akhbar.

Egyptian investment represented 80 per cent of the total investment and rose from \$900 million in the first quarter of 1995 to \$2 billion this year, he said.

Capital invested by Arabs quadrupled in the same period, from \$65 million to \$250 million, while other foreign investment increased five-fold from \$45 million to \$250 million.

Mr. Fawzi said most of the finance was channelled into industry, agriculture and tourism.

## Israel ranks third biggest source of tourists to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel is the third highest source of tourists to Egypt, sending more visitors here than any Arab country, Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Beltagui said in remarks published Sunday.

Most tourists during the 1995-96 fiscal year came from Germany, followed by Britain, Israel, Italy, France, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Libya, Mr. Beltagui said, quoted by the Egyptian news agency MENA.

Lior Ben Dor, a spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Cairo, told AFP that 200,000 Israelis visited Egypt over the past year. "The increase in this number is due to the peace process," he said.

"Even the number of Egyptians visiting Israel has nearly doubled from around 15,000 to around

30,000," Mr. Ben Dor added.

Mr. Beltagui said the total number of tourists from July 1995 to July 1996 climbed above 3.55 million "for the first time in Egypt's history."

"If the current rate continues the number will reach 4.3 million tourists by the end of the year," he said.

During the first half of 1996, 1.7 million tourists came to Egypt, up 32 per cent from January-July 1995, Mr. Beltagui said.

Egypt has launched a huge publicity campaign to rebuild its tourism industry which was gutted from 1992 to 1994 by attacks by militants against foreign tourists.

Meanwhile, Egypt is to double entry prices for foreign tourists to all its archaeological sites including the pyramids, the

Supreme Antiquities Council has announced.

"We are going to double the price of tickets for foreigners only from next October," said the council chief Abdul Halim Nur Eddin. "Prices have not risen for six years and we decided to double them 18 months ago. Since then we have informed all the departments and tourist agencies concerned."

Mr. Nur Eddin said the extra money was needed to restore ancient monuments, maintain museums and fund archaeological digs.

"It is not acceptable that entry to the pyramids should be a mere \$3," he added.

Prices vary from site to site and are generally far cheaper for Egyptians than for foreign tourists because of their much lower standard of living.

## Foreign firms eye Dubai as springboard to 1.5b consumers

DUBAI (AFP) — A rapidly growing number of foreign firms are setting up business in Dubai and its Jebel Ali Free Zone to take aim at 1.5 billion consumers in the Gulf, Central Asia, India and Africa.

Dubai is luring them here by investing its limited oil revenue in ports, warehouses, roads and communication networks while fostering free enterprise and a cosmopolitan social environment, businessmen and economic experts said.

"Oil is running out. They're betting everything on trying to attract people. I think they're winning," said Terry Sorgi, the commercial attaché at the U.S. consulate in Dubai. Last year alone 1,495 foreign companies set up branches, representative offices and joint venture partnerships in Dubai or in the nearby Jebel Ali Free Zone (JAFZ), according to figures provided by government officials.

A total of 4,279 companies have arrived within the last decade. What they are targeting are 1.5 billion potential consumers stretching from the Arab states, Iran, through the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, India, Pakistan, and East Africa.

"It's a huge area. It has 25 per cent of the world's population. Most are developing countries," Mr. Sorgi said.

This city of almost one million people in the United Arab Emirates has no regional rival as a trade hub and distribution centre, trading with around 150

ports and airports via Jebel Ali, Port Rashid, Dubai Creek and Dubai Airport.

Almost \$20 billion worth of goods other than oil flowed in and out of Dubai in 1995, up 9.4 per cent over the previous year, as China overtook Japan as Dubai's top trading partner, according to published figures.

Trade involves a gamut of goods including cars, computers, heavy machinery, metals, textiles, food products and grains, with one businessman saying about \$5 million worth of sugar is traded here every day.

Werner Benz, Dresdner Bank's chief representative for the Middle East who moved his office here last year from Bahrain, said the free zone was especially attractive to many European businessmen burdened by regulations at home.

"From an entrepreneurial point of view, it's something like a paradise," he said. Distributors and manufacturers in the JAFZ retain 100 per cent ownership, pay no taxes and benefit from deep ports and vast warehouses as well as supplies of cheap energy and labour.

At the end of 1995 there were 888 companies in the JAFZ, up from 19 when it started in 1985. Last year's arrivals included such global giants as General Motors, Mitsubishi Motors, IBM, Mobil, AT and T, and Ericsson.

In 1995, there were 419 branches of foreign companies in the city, up from 122 in 1985, and 27 foreign rep-

resentative offices, up from 15 in 1985, according to Dubai Economic Department figures.

The vast majority of foreign firms are represented in 21,000 joint ventures — last year there were 1,266 new such ventures in which UAE businessmen retain 51 per cent ownership.

Indians, Iranians and Pakistanis still form the largest foreign business communities in Dubai, a throwback to the centuries of trading on wooden dhows which still do brisk business from the Gulf inlet known as Dubai Creek.

Foreigners, including labourers, now outnumber nationals here by five to one.

"There was a wise investment pushed into the economy from oil ... to make Dubai a major trade centre, an international exhibition centre and tourism centre," said Ahmad Al Banna, a Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry official.

Dubai is also on its way to becoming a financial centre, Mr. Benz added.

But business leaders said Dubai, although touted as a Hong Kong or Singapore of the Middle East, cannot match the trade volume and economic sophistication of those South East Asian city states.

They said it needed to establish a stock exchange, improve business laws, fight copyright piracy, and promote better service.

One Asian businessman said it takes one day to clear a check here but only a phone call in Hong Kong.

## Middle East Airlines to raise capital by \$225m

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's national carrier, Middle East Airlines (MEA), has voted to raise the company's capital by \$225 million to meet debts and finance a recovery plan, newspapers have reported.

The vote was taken last week at a meeting of MEA's board of directors, under the chairmanship of director general Khaled Salam, and was also attended by representatives of shareholders Air France and the Lebanese bank, Intra.

Mr. Salam said \$100 million would be injected immediately "for the capitalisation of debts" while the other \$125 million would be put into the account in the next two weeks to finance a recovery programme. The plan includes restructuring MEA, training employees and revamping the fleet, Mr. Salam said.

MEA also decided to sell four Boeing 707s in order to buy four newer planes, he added.

The Saudi daily Al Hayat, quoting informed sources in MEA, said the Lebanese central bank will finance the new capitalisation.

Last month minister of state for financial affairs, Fuad Saniora, said the central bank would contribute to raising MEA's capital, which currently stands at around \$10 million. MEA's capital was affected by the devaluation of the Lebanese pound in the 1980s when the dollar was worth 2.5 pounds. Currently it trades at 1,567 pounds.

Intra Bank, owned mostly by the Lebanese government, holds 60 per cent shares of MEA, while Air France holds 28 per cent of the company and the rest is held by private Lebanese investors and company employees.

The central bank, the Lebanese government and Kuwaiti and Qatari investors hold shares in Intra Bank.

MEA, which was set up in 1944, owes debts estimated at \$150 million and owns property worth \$205 million.

Experts blame MEA's financial problems on Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, when it was unable to upgrade its fleet, had management and overstaffing.

A MEA source told Al Hayat that Air France, which is facing its own financial crisis, has refused to take part in MEA's capitalisation while the Arab shareholders had reservations.

## DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Ministry working on survey to evaluate government services

THE MINISTRY of Administrative Development is preparing a survey to gauge public opinion on services provided by the government. According to Kamal Nasser, minister of administrative development, the aim of this important survey is to identify the areas of weakness and shortcomings so they can be avoided or contained and to consolidate and stress areas of strength to improve these services. He indicated that the field survey will focus on finding out the type and the quality level of services provided to the people and whether they commensurate with the efforts and costs from both the public and the government departments.

The survey seeks to specify whether these services were easy or difficult to obtain and whether the measures required to get the services are simple or not. The time factor will also be observed to see if it is really necessary or could be shortened. Other objectives include the extent of equitable coverage and comprehensiveness of the services that a concerned department provides to the public and the clarity of the

requirements needed to obtain a service such as the documents, fees and other official papers.

Dr. Nasser said that the survey/study is considered as one of the most important studies that the ministry is working on as it is directly connected with the people's contacts with various government departments. This study (survey), the minister pointed out, will show the officials the extent for simplifying the measures for various procedures and how positively it will reflect on the performance of the personnel at public institutions.

According to the minister, the theoretical framework of the study and the draft survey will need about 15 weeks before preparing the final report and reviewing it. After that, the results of the study will be circulated so as it would put for practical benefit.

Dr. Nasser said that his ministry would continue to organise meetings for the secretaries general of the ministries with the ministers to discuss strategies for each ministry (Al-Dustour).

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates |        |        |        |        |         |        |         |        |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Currency                       | USD    | DEM    | GBP    | CHF    | JPY     | CAD    | ITL     | NLG    | FRF    |
| US Dollar                      | 1.0000 | 1.4815 | 0.6437 | 1.2095 | 108.30  | 1.3740 | 1526.33 | 1.6630 | 5.0290 |
| DE Mark                        | 0.6750 | 1.0000 | 0.4336 | 0.8191 | 73.10   | 0.9274 | 1029.86 | 1.1233 | 3.3636 |
| GB Sterling                    | 1.5535 | 1.5535 | 1.0000 | 1.7779 | 168.40  | 2.1345 | 2371.16 | 2.5835 | 7.8126 |
| CH Franc                       | 0.8284 | 1.2244 | 0.5316 | 1.0000 | 89.54   | 1.1382 | 1261.43 | 137.51 | 4.1562 |
| JP Yen                         | 0.0092 | 1.3667 | 0.5834 | 1.1158 | 1.0000  | 1.2653 | 14.08   | 153.41 | 4.6393 |
| CA Dollar                      | 0.7276 | 1.0792 | 0.4882 | 0.8807 | 1.27    | 1.0000 | 1112.40 | 1.2118 | 3.6620 |
| IT Lira                        | 0.0007 | 0.9704 | 0.4213 | 0.8792 | 1410.84 | 0.9005 | 10.89   | 3.2939 | 1.0000 |
| NL Guilder                     | 0.6013 | 0.6013 | 0.2997 | 0.7271 | 65.09   | 0.8265 | 917.54  | 1.0000 | 3.2939 |
| FR Franc                       | 0.1936 | 0.2445 | 0.1278 | 0.2440 | 21.52   | 0.2733 | 33.06   | 33.06  | 1.0000 |

| Energy |        |          |        |        |          |        |        |          |        |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Oil    | Last   | Previous | Oil    | Last   | Previous | Oil    | Last   | Previous | Oil    |
| Brent  | 19.30  | 19.85    | WTI    | 20.10  | 21.00    | Brent  | 19.30  | 19.85    | WTI    |
| Bony   | 19.30  | 19.85    | Bony   | 19.30  | 19.85    | Bony   | 19.30  | 19.85    | Bony   |
| Dubai  | 17.55  | 17.35    | Dubai  | 17.55  | 17.35    | Dubai  | 17.55  | 17.35    | Dubai  |
| UL Gas | 187.00 | 199.00   | UL Gas | 187.00 | 199.00   | UL Gas | 187.00 | 199.00   | UL Gas |

| Mid-East Currencies |        |         |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Currency            | USD    | DEM     | GBP     | CHF     | JPY     | CAD    | ITL     | NLG     | FRF     |
| SA Riyal            | 0.2668 | 0.3953  | 0.17164 | 0.32263 | 28.9034 | 0.2668 | 0.3953  | 0.17164 | 0.32263 |
| AE Dirham           | 0.2723 | 0.40385 | 0.17528 | 0.32945 | 28.9142 | 0.2723 | 0.40385 | 0.17528 | 0.32945 |
| KW Dinar            | 3.3487 | 4.96032 | 2.15424 | 4.05022 | 382.845 | 3.3487 | 4.96032 | 2.15424 | 4.05022 |
| BH Dinar            | 0.3770 | 0.56236 | 0.25028 | 0.48224 | 428.522 | 0.3770 | 0.56236 | 0.25028 | 0.48224 |
| CY Pound            | 2.1648 | 3.2069  | 1.3925  | 2.6181  | 234.426 | 2.1648 | 3.2069  | 1.3925  | 2.6181  |

| Metal Prices    |       |       |                 |       |       |                 |       |       |                 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Metal           | Bid   | Offer | Metal           | Bid   | Offer | Metal           | Bid   | Offer | Metal           |
| Gold (oz)       | 385.1 | 385.5 | Gold (oz)       | 385.1 | 385.5 | Gold (oz)       | 385.1 | 385.5 | Gold (oz)       |
| Silver (oz)     | 5.1   | 5.12  | Silver (oz)     | 5.1   | 5.12  | Silver (oz)     | 5.1   | 5.12  | Silver (oz)     |
| Platinum (oz)   | 399.9 | 400.9 | Platinum (oz)   | 399.9 | 400.9 | Platinum (oz)   | 399.9 | 400.9 | Platinum (oz)   |
| AL (3 Months)   | 1507  | 1510  | AL (3 Months)   | 1507  | 1510  | AL (3 Months)   | 1507  | 1510  | AL (3 Months)   |
| CU (3 Months)   | 1978  | 1983  | CU (3 Months)   | 1978  | 1983  | CU (3 Months)   | 1978  | 1983  | CU (3 Months)   |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1040  | 1042  | Zinc (3 Months) | 1040  | 1042  | Zinc (3 Months) | 1040  | 1042  | Zinc (3 Months) |
| Lead (3 Months) | 811   | 814   | Lead (3 Months) | 811   | 814   | Lead (3 Months) | 811   | 814   | Lead (3 Months) |
| NI (3 Months)   | 7035  | 7050  | NI (3 Months)   | 7035  | 7050  | NI (3 Months)   | 7035  | 7050  | NI (3 Months)   |

| Currency Deposit Rates (Bid) |       |          |          |          |        |      |       |          |          |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|--------|------|-------|----------|----------|
| Cncy                         | Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 9 Months | 1 Year | Cncy | Month | 3 Months | 6 Months |
| USD                          | 5.31  | 5.50     | 5.71     | 5.87     | 6.03   | USD  | 5.31  | 5.50     | 5.71     |
| GBP                          | 5.71  | 5.71     | 5.71     | 5.87     | 6.00   | GBP  | 5.71  | 5.71     | 5.71     |
| JPY                          | 0.37  | 0.57     | 0.78     | 1.03     | 1.06   | JPY  | 0.37  | 0.57     | 0.78     |
| DEM                          | 3.12  | 3.25     | 3.25     | 3.25     | 3.31   | DEM  | 3.12  | 3.25     | 3.25     |
| FRF                          | 3.60  | 3.68     | 3.78     | 3.87     | 3.97   | FRF  | 3.60  | 3.68     | 3.78     |
| CHF                          | 2.31  | 2.37     | 2.43     | 2.43     | 2.60   | CHF  | 2.31  | 2.37     | 2.43     |
| ITL                          | 8.65  | 8.53     | 8.28     | 8.21     | 8.18   | ITL  | 8.65  | 8.53     | 8.28     |

| JOD Cross Rates |        |        |             |        |        |             |        |        |             |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Currency        | Buy    | Sell   | Currency    | Buy    | Sell   | Currency    | Buy    | Sell   | Currency    |
| US Dollar       | 0.708  | 0.710  | US Dollar   | 0.708  | 0.710  | US Dollar   | 0.708  | 0.710  | US Dollar   |
| GB Sterling     | 1.0998 | 1.1051 | GB Sterling | 1.0998 | 1.1051 | GB Sterling | 1.0998 | 1.1051 | GB Sterling |
| DE Mark         | 0.4773 | 0.4797 | DE Mark     | 0.4773 | 0.4797 | DE Mark     | 0.4773 | 0.4797 | DE Mark     |
| CH Franc        | 0.5849 | 0.5878 | CH Franc    | 0.5849 | 0.5878 | CH Franc    | 0.5849 | 0.5878 | CH Franc    |
| FR Franc        | 0.1407 | 0.1414 | FR Franc    | 0.1407 | 0.1414 | FR Franc    | 0.1407 | 0.1414 | FR Franc    |
| JP Yen          | 0.8529 | 0.8582 | JP Yen      | 0.8529 | 0.8582 | JP Yen      | 0.8529 | 0.8582 | JP Yen      |
| NL Guilder      | 0.4252 | 0.4273 | NL Guilder  | 0.4252 | 0.4273 | NL Guilder  | 0.4252 | 0.4273 | NL Guilder  |
| ITL Lira        | 0.0464 | 0.0469 | ITL Lira    | 0.0464 | 0.0469 | ITL Lira    | 0.0464 | 0.0469 | ITL Lira    |

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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# Christie disqualified as Bailey sets world 100 metres record

## Dramatic photo-finish gives Devers title

ATLANTA (R) — Donovan Bailey of Canada crowned an evening of drama with a world record in the Olympic 100 metres final on Saturday, restoring the spirit of a Games plunged into mourning less than 24 hours earlier.

World champion Bailey clocked 9.84 seconds in a sumptuous showdown between the cream of world sprinters, defeating pre-race favourites Frankie Fredericks and Ato Boldon and guaranteeing his place as the fastest man on the planet.

Although Bailey's victory came amid controversy — defending champion Linford Christie of Britain was disqualified for two false starts — it brightened an Atlanta day which had begun with a fatal bombing.

If the men's sprint lived up to its billing, the women's 100 metres was no less dramatic, ending in a controversial photo-finish between defending champion Gail Devers and Jamaican veteran Merlene Ottey.

Both were given the same time of 10.94 but, despite an appeal, the verdict went to Devers and the 36-year-old Ottey once more missed out on an Olympic gold.

Devers had an extra reason to celebrate, along with the 80,000 crowd in the Olympic stadium, when her companion Kenny Harrison won the men's

triple jump, becoming only the second man to clear 18 metres.

In the process he beat the only other one to achieve the feat, Briton Jonathan Edwards, who had to settle for silver (see separate story).

The fourth and final gold medal of the day went to Heli Rantanen of Finland, who won the women's javelin.

In a men's sprint final featuring so many athletes with egos as big as their talent, drama was inevitable and so it proved before the race had even started.

Christie made one false start, Trinidadian Boldon a second and then Christie was called again, earning an automatic disqualification.

The Briton, who protested vigorously and had to be ordered off the track, was later involved in a potentially ugly scene with Boldon after he and other sprinters in the race accused Christie of not showing them respect.

Bailey proved the surprise of the race itself as Namibian Fredericks and Boldon had set such fast times in the early rounds they seemed destined to contest both the gold and the world record between themselves.

But the Canadian made a great start and never let up clipping, 0.01 of a second off American Leroy Burrell's two-year-old world mark. Fredericks



Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey cries during the medal ceremony where he received the gold medal after winning and setting a new world record in the men's 100 metre dash at Olympic Stadium (Reuters photo)

**Men's 100 metres world record evolution**

| Time | Name                    | Date     |
|------|-------------------------|----------|
| 10.6 | Donat Lapointe (U.S.)   | 6.7.82   |
| 10.4 | Charles Padlock (U.S.)  | 23.4.21  |
| 10.3 | Percy Williams (Canada) | 9.8.30   |
| 10.2 | Jesse Owens (U.S.)      | 20.6.36  |
| 10.1 | Willie Williams (U.S.)  | 3.8.56   |
| 10.0 | Armin Hary (W. Germany) | 21.6.60  |
| 9.95 | Jim Hines (U.S.)        | 14.10.68 |
| 9.93 | Calvin Smith (U.S.)     | 3.7.83   |
| 9.92 | Carl Lewis (U.S.)       | 24.8.84  |
| 9.90 | Leroy Burrell (U.S.)    | 14.6.91  |
| 9.86 | Lewis                   | 25.8.91  |
| 9.85 | Burrell                 | 6.7.94   |
| 9.84 | Donovan Bailey (Canada) | 27.7.96  |

took silver in 9.89 and Boldon bronze in 9.90. "This one's for you too Jamaica, remember that," the Jamaican-born Bailey said. "I wasn't thinking about a world record. Every time I go into races and think about that, I screw up."

The women's race was almost equally breathtaking. Devers was out first but Ottey was closing in fast when they hit the line and the two of them, as well as world champion Gwen Torrence of the United States, appeared to cross together.

The nod was finally given to Devers, who became the only woman apart from American Wyomia Tyus to retain the title, with Ottey improving to silver after four bronzes in an Olympic career going back to 1980. Torrence took bronze in 10.96. Ironically, Devers beat Ottey in exactly the same kind of photo-finish at the world championships in Stuttgart three years ago when Ottey was also finishing faster.

"I couldn't believe it would happen again," she said. "If they made the races 102 metres long I would always win."

Another career which has been going on for almost as long as Ottey's looked set to end when Jackie Joyner-Kersey pulled out of the women's heptathlon after the 100 metres hurdles, the first event, with a hamstring injury.

American Joyner-Kersey had been aiming for a third successive gold in what she had said would be her last Olympics.

Michael Johnson continued his build-up towards an expected three-gold haul with a victory in the second round of the 400 metres.

It was not only the golden shoes he wore that were unusual. The American, for once, decided to toy with the field by going into the last bend well behind the leaders — before powering through to win stylishly without appearing to break sweat.

# Three positive drug tests at Atlanta —IOC

ATLANTA (R) — The International Olympic Committee said on Sunday three athletes including two bronze medalists had failed drugs tests at the Atlanta Games.

IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier named them as Russian swimmer Andrei Korneyev, third in the 200 metres breaststroke, his compatriot Zafar Guliyev, a bronze medal wrestler, and Lithuanian cyclist Rita Razmaite.

Verdier said all three athletes had been disqualified from the Games and Korneyev and Guliyev stripped of their medals.

All three were found to have taken the substance bromantan, a class one stimulant.

The bans were the first doping cases at the troubled Atlanta Games.

Cuban judoka Estela Rodriguez was earlier reprimanded for taking a diuretic without informing her coach. This was not considered a doping offence.

# Harrison wins with jump of his life

ATLANTA (R) — American Kenny Harrison produced the best triple jump of his life to clinch his first Olympic title at the Atlanta Games on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Harrison became only the second man to jump over 18 metres when he recorded an Olympic record of 18.09 metres, defeating Britain's world record holder Jonathan Edwards and Olympic champion Mike Conley in the process.

World champion Edwards, the only other jumper to have gone over the mark, took the silver medal with 17.88 with Cuba's Yoelbi Quesada winning bronze with 17.44 metres. Conley finished fourth with 17.40.

Harrison has not won a

major title since the 1991 world championship, in Tokyo at the end of his most consistent season. The American, who jumped a wind-assisted 18.01 in the same Atlanta stadium in June and pledged before the Games that he would jump further than any man in history, opened the competition with a brilliant 17.99 to take the lead. He went over the magic 18 metres Mark in the fourth round.

Edwards failed to register a jump in his opening two attempts but lifted his form in the fourth round to take second place. The result, however, marked the Briton's first defeat in a competition since the end of the 1994 season.



Kenny Harrison of the United States competes in the men's triple jump and wins the gold medal with a new Olympic record of 18.09 at the summer Olympics in Atlanta (Reuters photo)



# ITV's Olympic coverage on Channel 2 for Monday

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Athletics                           | 15:20 - 19:30 |
| Equestrian                          | 15:25 - 20:05 |
| Diving                              | 18:25 - 20:00 |
| Summary A (Channel 1)               | 20:30 - 21:30 |
| Table Tennis (ladies doubles final) | 20:55 - 22:15 |
| Weightlifting 108-kg final          | 22:55 - 01:00 |
| Athletics 7 finals                  | 00:20 - 06:15 |
| Summary B (Channel 1)               | 01:15 - 02:15 |
| Gymnastics individual events        | 03:25 - 06:10 |
| Diving (men's springboard)          | 04:55 - 07:00 |
| Summary C (Channel 1)               | 07:00 - 08:00 |

# Medals table at the start of the 9th day of competition

| Country       | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------------|------|--------|--------|
| United States | 18   | 20     | 7      |
| Russia        | 14   | 10     | 6      |
| France        | 10   | 5      | 12     |
| China         | 8    | 8      | 6      |
| Australia     | 7    | 7      | 10     |
| Italy         | 7    | 5      | 6      |
| Poland        | 5    | 4      | 3      |
| Germany       | 3    | 10     | 15     |
| Cuba          | 3    | 4      | 7      |
| Japan         | 3    | 4      | 2      |
| South Korea   | 3    | 4      | 2      |
| Hungary       | 3    | 2      | 3      |
| New Zealand   | 3    | 1      | 1      |
| Iceland       | 3    | 0      | 1      |
| Turkey        | 3    | 0      | 1      |
| Canada        | 2    | 3      | 13     |
| Belgium       | 2    | 1      | 2      |
| Ukraine       | 2    | 0      | 3      |
| South Africa  | 2    | 0      | 1      |
| Belarus       | 2    | 3      | 0      |
| Greece        | 1    | 3      | 0      |
| Brazil        | 1    | 2      | 4      |
| Romania       | 1    | 2      | 3      |
| Britain       | 1    | 2      | 2      |
| Kazakhstan    | 1    | 2      | 1      |
| Finland       | 1    | 2      | 0      |
| Czech Rep.    | 1    | 1      | 1      |
| North Korea   | 1    | 1      | 1      |
| Slovenia      | 1    | 0      | 1      |
| Yugoslavia    | 1    | 0      | 1      |
| Armenia       | 1    | 0      | 0      |
| Costa Rica    | 1    | 0      | 0      |
| Ecuador       | 1    | 0      | 0      |
| Switzerland   | 1    | 0      | 0      |
| Bulgaria      | 0    | 3      | 4      |
| Spain         | 0    | 1      | 2      |
| Austria       | 0    | 1      | 1      |
| Norway        | 0    | 1      | 1      |
| Sweden        | 0    | 1      | 1      |
| Jamaica       | 0    | 1      | 0      |
| Namibia       | 0    | 1      | 0      |
| Uzbekistan    | 0    | 1      | 0      |
| Netherlands   | 0    | 0      | 7      |

# Croatia oust holders Italy in water polo semis

ATLANTA (R) — Croatia beat title-holders Italy 7-6 in the semifinals of the Olympic water polo tournament on Saturday and face 1992 silver medalists Spain in the final.

Croatia, beaten by both Italy and the United States in the preliminary round-robin group series, raised their game when the stakes were higher in a match which went into extra-time with the score at 4-4 at the end of normal time.

Four-goal Josko Kreckovic was the Croatian hero, scoring with a penalty to level the score at 6-6 midway through the second period of extra-time and netting the winner, again from a penalty, just 10 seconds from the end.

Croatia, only third in their preliminary group, beat Yugoslavia 8-6 in Friday's quarter-final battle between rival parts of the old communist Yugoslavia before the country broke apart.

Italy, coached by Yugoslav Ratko Rudic, had won all their previous matches in this tournament, defeating Russia 11-9 in the quarter-finals.

They came to Atlanta as both Olympic and world champions, having beaten Spain in the respective finals of Barcelona 1992 and Rome 1994.

Spain beat former champions Hungary 7-5 in the other semifinal, scoring three times in the final quarter to overhaul a Hungarian lead. Salvador Gomez scored four goals for Spain.

Italy and Hungary, who topped the two preliminary groups, will contest the third-place play-off for bronze before the Croatia-Spain final on Sunday.

# Seles, bothered by bomb news, defeats Sabatini; Agassi advances

ATLANTA (R) — Monica Seles is determined not to allow Saturday's bomb attack to revive painful memories of the security lapse which led to her stabbing at a Hamburg tournament in 1993.

Seles, who is staying in the Olympic village and playing in the tennis tournament, received an early wake-up call from former New York Mayor David Dinkins followed by a stream of telephone enquiries from friends and family concerned about her well-being.

"He asked me 'are you all right', and I said 'why are you asking that?'" said Seles, describing how she learned of the explosion from Dinkins.

"I had no idea...it's terrible what happened last night. But I am still trying to go to the track and field tonight and get on with my life. That's what happened after the stabbing."

Seles, who says she will remain in the village, is accompanied everywhere

by a security man, who stays by her on court during the changeovers and sits nearby during play.

So far she has had the same security guard, who has an Alsatian dog alongside him off court, throughout the games. "But I don't have exclusivity on him or his dog."

Seles was composed enough to defeat 13th seed Gabriela Sabatini 6-3 6-3 on Saturday and reach the quarter-finals.

"As soon as I walk into the stadium I focus only on

well-being.

"He asked me 'are you all right', and I said 'why are you asking that?'" said Seles, describing how she learned of the explosion from Dinkins.

"I had no idea...it's terrible what happened last night. But I am still trying to go to the track and field tonight and get on with my life. That's what happened after the stabbing."

Seles, who says she will remain in the village, is accompanied everywhere



Andre Agassi tennis," she said. Fellow American Andre

Agassi, favourite to lift the Olympic men's title, managed to win only two of the first 11 games before recovering to beat Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 2-6 6-4 6-2.

Agassi said he was too eager to begin with and overhitting his shots before a word of advice from coach Brad Gilbert put him back on track.

"Brad told me I was hitting moonshots, missiles," Agassi said.

Defending Olympic champion Marc Rosset of Switzerland was forced to

retire in his match against 14-seed Renzo Furlan of Italy. Rosset, the eighth seed, said he felt dizzy during the match and his legs were weak.

"I have been feeling this way for three or four days," just tired and weak," said Rosset, adding he is to undergo blood tests.

|          |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY AT | <b>PHILADELPHIA</b><br>Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau .... in<br><b>BRAVEHEART</b><br>winner of 6 Academy Awards<br>Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 | <b>PLAZA</b><br>Adel Imam stars in<br><b>Sleeping in Honey</b><br>(Arabic)<br>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30<br><b>Toy Story</b><br>5:00 p.m. | <b>CONCORD</b><br><b>CONCORD "1"</b><br>Jim Carrey & Jeff Daniels<br>Dumb and Dumber<br>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30<br><b>CONCORD "2"</b><br><b>BRAVEHEART</b><br>Shows: 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 | <b>Hampton Theatre &amp; Cinema</b><br>TEL: 619-744-6182/25<br>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad<br>theatre group in the play entitled<br><b>Five-Star Government</b><br>Starring comedians:<br>Mahmoud Saimah<br>& Hussein Tubeishat<br>play starts 8:30 p.m. | <b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre</b><br>TEL: 625-1555<br>PRESENTS<br><b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b><br><b>Arab Human Rights</b><br>at 8:30 p.m.<br>For reservation please call<br>625155 - 640155 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Atlanta 1996  
Olympic schedule  
Monday, July 29

ATHLETICS  
100m  
200m  
400m  
800m  
1600m  
3200m  
5000m  
10000m  
20000m  
40000m  
80000m  
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13611294676837538538534984297270728458240000m  
27222589353675077077069968594541456916480000m  
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## Evidence points to mid-air break-up of TWA Flight 800

EAST MORICHES, New York (AFP) — Investigators said Sunday they were searching for the cockpit of TWA Flight 800, but stopped short of confirming reports the jetliner broke up in mid-air and denied they had concluded a bomb caused the deadly explosion.

The forward part of the Boeing 747 has been located 2.4 kilometres "further back along the line that the aircraft was flying" from the tail wreckage, Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said Sunday.

Divers searching the Atlantic Ocean floor near here have found major sections of the first class and business class sections of the Paris-bound plane, but have not located the cockpit.

Mr. Francis stopped short of saying this proved the July 17 explosion caused the plane to break into pieces while still in the air, but said at a news conference: "Things that

come off first tend to be an indicator of what happened." "We're obviously interested in anything in the front of the aircraft that might include the cockpit," he said.

But he cautioned that investigators would not "be able to do a full analysis until parts of the aircraft were lifted" from the seabed. All 230 people aboard Flight 800 died as the plane plunged into the ocean shortly after taking off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has said the crash might have been caused by a mechanical malfunction, a bomb or a surface-to-air missile.

Mr. Francis and justice department officials insisted Sunday that none of the theories could be discounted at this stage, contrary to a CNN television report that investigators had concluded a bomb

caused the July 17 explosion. But asked about a possible malfunction, White House

Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said in an ABC interview that "the evidence is beginning to move away from that possibility." CNN reported that a bomb in the front cargo hold of the plane ripped the front off the jumbo jet, causing it to crash.

Evidence that the plane broke up was further backed by radar readings from air traffic control.

Readings showed the plane continued to fly for some 24 seconds after its two black boxes stopped recording because of a loss of electric power. Ground radar then picked up two targets, and then multiple targets just before the plane, burning at this stage, disappeared into the sea, a possible indication of its breakup.

CNN said sources believed the plane flew for several seconds without a front and that the severed part could explain why radar operators spotted two points on their screens as the plane crashed.



OVERVIEW OF SEMI SUBMERGED BUILDINGS IN SOUTH KOREA: Apartment blocks in the South Korean town of Munsan Sunday lay partly submerged after days of heavy rainfall caused extensive flooding throughout the country. Torrential rains left at least 50 people dead and tens of thousands homeless (see story on page 5) (Reuters photo)

## World gets new watermelon eating champions

PARMA, Italy (AFP) — Salesman Mario Rossi scooped his way Sunday to the world watermelon-eating title when he downed 1.5 kilograms of the fruit in a minute, organisers said.

Mr. Rossi, 31, who sells pharmaceuticals when not eating watermelons, fended off the challenge of 109 rivals at the contest in Sissa, near this northeast town. The women's title was won by Providenza Sansoni, 23, who ate 688 grammes of watermelon in 60 seconds.

## Diana phone calls drove PR to quit — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's media spokeswoman Jane Atkinson quit because her royal client bombarded her with telephone calls that threatened her marriage, the News of the World newspaper reported.

Ms. Atkinson resigned last week after only six months on the job. "The calls would start at 6.30 a.m. and would never stop," the newspaper quoted a friend of Ms. Atkinson's as saying.

"George...felt like his wife was being snatched from him." The final straw was when Sarah, ex-wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, telephoned to instruct Ms. Atkinson on how to handle a dispute over photographs that had been taken of Diana and Sarah on holiday in France.

Ms. Atkinson's departure was the latest public relations setback for the 35-year-old Diana, currently in the process of a divorce from heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles. Diana was highly criticised for quitting as patron of nearly 100 charities and was described as self-serving when a photograph of her watching a heart operation was published on the front pages of Britain's newspapers. Another royal spokesman is also set to quit, the Sunday Times newspaper reported. It said Queen Elizabeth's press secretary Charles Anson was preparing to resign but said no scandal was involved. It said the long-serving Anson was planning to return to the private sector.

## Cary Grant spied for Britain — report

LONDON (AFP) — Film legend Cary Grant spied for Britain during World War II by having contact with Hollywood stars suspected of having Nazi sympathies, the Sunday Times reports. The British-born actor fed information back to Sir William Stephenson, who coordinated British intelligence in the United States during the 1939-45 conflict, the newspaper said, citing a new biography of the British spy-master. "Stephenson wrote that in no uncertain terms, he was in regular contact with Grant because if you knew what was happening in Hollywood you could monitor propaganda and keep an eye on Nazi activities in a town that acted as a focal point for members of the far right," wrote biographer Graham McCann of Cambridge University. "Grant was a chameleon who could change his persona and was very untruthful," added Prof. McCann, whose book comes out in August. "He knew the U.S. elite, had friends at the very highest level and was implicitly trusted as a recruit for the security services." Mr. Grant, who died in 1986 at the age of 82, was asked in particular to collect information on peers Gary Cooper and Errol Flynn, the newspaper said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arafat arrives in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday for a two-day visit that will include talks with King Fahd likely to focus on ways of easing economic problems in the autonomous territories, officials said. Mr. Arafat is to discuss the employment of Palestinian workers in the oil-rich kingdom as an alternative to Israel, which has sealed its borders with the Gaza Strip and other autonomous areas on the West Bank, a Palestinian diplomat in Riyadh said. Mustapha Sheikh Dhiab also said Mr. Arafat would brief Saudi leaders on the latest developments in the peace process including his meeting last week with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy. Mr. Arafat is to meet King Fahd for the first time since the Saudi monarch suffered a stroke in November 1995 in the western town of Jeddah on Sunday, as well as Crown Prince Abdullah.

### Group threatens Americans in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A group calling itself Jihad (holy struggle) threatened on Sunday to send Americans in Egypt home "canned in coffins" unless the United States ended its support for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The threat, in a statement faxed to an Arabic language newspaper in London, was timed to coincide with Mr. Mubarak's arrival in Washington for scheduled talks with President Bill Clinton and other senior U.S. officials on Middle East peace. "The American policy with its historic stupidity ignited jihad in Egypt, then Algeria then Palestine and then the Arabian Peninsula against Americans," the group said in a statement. "The poor American president, who is de facto president of Egypt, is involved and he cannot withdraw from this involvement...because his agent Hosni Mubarak cannot stop the volcano of the Islamic revolution," the statement said.

### Israel ends attempts to amend nuclear treaty

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel said Sunday it would no longer seek amendments to the comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which is to be discussed at an upcoming disarmament conference in Geneva. "Israel, which is committed to prohibiting all nuclear tests, will not attempt to reopen negotiations concerning compromises in the treaty," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said after talks with the director of the U.S. Nuclear Disarmament Agency, John Holm. "Israel has decided to adopt this position although the current version of the treaty does not address all our concerns," Mr. Levy said. Israel has never admitted to having nuclear weapons, although foreign military experts believe the Jewish state has between 100 to 200 atomic bombs, along with long-range missiles to carry them. Various Israeli governments have said they would never be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

### Third Israeli victim of attack dies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A man wounded in a drive-by shooting blamed on Palestinian militants that killed his wife and father died Sunday morning, hospital officials said. Palestinian authorities said they were questioning suspects in the attack. Zeev Munk, 30, died at Tel Aviv's Tel Hashomer hospital from a gunshot wound to the head received in Friday's attack. Munk's wife, Rachel, and father, Uri, died Friday. His mother, who was also in the car, was treated for shock and released. The shooting occurred 25 kilometers southwest of Jerusalem and just 15 kilometers from the West Bank, in the same area where an Israeli couple was killed in a similar attack last month. Police said they believed both attacks were carried out by Palestinian militants from the West Bank town of Hebron.

### Six die in Yemen floods

SAN'A (AP) — Six people have died over the last two days in floods caused by heavy rains in the southern province of Taiz, the state-run San'a radio reported Sunday. It said an unspecified number of people have been injured in the northeastern Arab region. Since early July, 200 people have perished and scores have been hurt in floods that have swept several provinces. The government estimates damage at \$1.2 million. On Thursday, health ministry officials said that an outbreak of malaria caused by the heavy flooding has killed 35 people in Taiz province.

### Court upholds execution of murderer-rapist

DUBAI (AFP) — A court in Dubai has upheld the death penalty against a father of 16 children who was found guilty of kidnapping, raping and murdering a seven-year-old girl, official sources said. The court of cassation on Saturday upheld earlier rulings by the appeals and criminal courts ordering the execution of Khaled Mohammed Al Mousagay, a 40-year-old United Arab Emirates national, the official WAM news agency said. The case now goes to UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who has the right to grant a pardon under local laws.

## Police follow 'promising leads' in Atlanta blast probe

ATLANTA (R) — U.S. investigators hunting a white American man they suspect holds the key to the Atlanta Games bombing said on Sunday they were pursuing "promising leads" and making good progress.

The bomb, a crude homemade device made more deadly because it was laced with nails and screws, exploded in a packed public park during a rock concert in the early hours of Saturday. Two people died and 110 were injured.

"We are looking for a white American man who made a 911 emergency call immediately before the blast," said a police spokesman. The call, from a pay telephone beside the popular Centennial Park, was made half an hour before the explosion.

Jamie Gorelick, deputy attorney general in charge of the investigation, said investigators were closely looking at the theory that an American was responsible.

"That is one of the principal theories we are pursuing," she said on NBC's "meet the press" when asked if the FBI was looking for a "home-grown terrorist".

## Husseini warns Israel about Jerusalem

DOHA (AFP) — Senior Palestinian official Faisal Al Hussein warned Israel's new right-wing government on Sunday to change its position on Jerusalem or risk the scuttling the peace process.

"The situation (in Jerusalem) is difficult because of the attitude of Israeli authorities and this endangers the Middle East peace process," Mr. Hussein said here after talks with Qatari officials about the

situation in the Holy City, the official QNA news agency said.

Mr. Hussein is a minister with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) tasked with the issue of Jerusalem, which is claimed by both Israel and the Palestinians as their capital.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday condemned a decision by Israel's supreme court to allow Jewish extremists into Jerusalem's Temple

Mount.

The Palestinian Committee on Jerusalem, headed by Mr. Arafat, said the court's decision harmed the "holy places and the sensibilities of Muslims and Christians in the Holy City."

The compound, known as Haram Al Sharif in Arabic, contains Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

The Temple Mount Faith-

ful want to destroy the mosques to rebuild the Jewish temple, which they believe was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel in 1967, to be the capital of a future state, but the new right-wing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rules out negotiations on what it considers Israel's undivided capital.

## Chechen rebels say they repelled Russian attack

SOUTHERN CHECHENYA (R) — Rebels based at a key mountain pass in southern Chechnya said on Sunday they had repelled a Russian attempt to capture a strategic peak.

"Three days ago, the Russians came up onto the mountain. But we pushed them back," Adlan Usupov, commander of the post, told Reuters. "They are now in shock and will not be able to recover for two weeks," he declared.

"Yesterday we agreed a ceasefire with them to let them collect their bodies," he said. He did not say how many bodies there were or whether the rebels had suffered any

casualties.

It was not possible to confirm the information with the commanders on the Russian side, but conscripts at a Russian checkpoint outside the nearby village of Shatoi said that they had not heard any artillery firing for three days.

When reporters visited the area on Monday and Tuesday, artillery fire boomed through the mountains from Russian positions near the village of Borzoi, 55 kilometres south of the Chechen capital Grozny.

The rebels said their opponents were trying to take out their anti-aircraft positions so as to renew air raids on the

villages higher in the mountains.

On Sunday all was quiet on the heavily forested peaks.

Rebel sources say field commander Shamil Basayev is based in one of those villages, Itum-Kale, although regional field commander Daud Akhmadov denied on Tuesday that there were any senior separatist figures there.

"He (Basayev) has been fighting around Shatoi since July 9," Sultan Sidiyev, a field commander in the nearby Vedeno region, said last week.

He was referring to the day when fighting flared again in Chechnya, shattering a

ceasefire agreed before Russia's presidential election on July 3.

Basayev, who led a mass hostage-taking raid inside Russia a year ago, is one of the separatists most wanted by Moscow, which has labelled him a terrorist.

The separatists, who declared Chechnya independent in 1991, have been fighting Russian forces since December 1994. More than 30,000 people have died since then, many of them civilians.

Villagers started pouring out of the Itum-Kale area more than a week ago, when the Russian air force began bombing their settlements.

## Human rights activists, Arab-Americans criticise Congress probe into PNA human rights record

By Lamis Andoni

BOSTON — In a move that appears aimed at cutting financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the U.S. Congress has started a probe into the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But representatives of human rights groups, who testified at a special congressional hearing last week, strongly recommended that financial aid to the Palestinians should continue despite human rights violations by the Palestinian security forces.

They suggested that financial aid should not be exclusively channelled to "(Palestinian) agencies that engage in human rights violations but to aid projects essential to the development of polity based on the rule of law."

The representatives of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, in particular, argued that Israel and the U.S. should also bear some of the blame for Palestinian human rights violations since they have urged and backed the PNA's crackdown on the opponents of the peace agreements with Israel.

"I made it clear that while the Palestinian authority takes the responsibility for its practices it should be noted that they are under pressure from Israel and the U.S. to achieve security at any cost," Miriam Elahi, the Amnesty International representative told the Jordan Times after the testimony.

Joe Stork, a respected expert on

the Middle East who represented the Washington-based Human Rights Watch made the same point in his testimony. "Responsibility for these practices rests first and foremost with the Palestinian authority. But it is (important) to point out that the (PNA) has come under intense pressure from Israel and the United States to undertake these mass arrests," Mr. Stork said.

The hearings, that were not widely publicised led to suspicions in Washington that they were part of a campaign to sever aid to the Palestinians. Arab-American leaders expressed resentment that the Congress human rights committee did not hold similar hearing to probe Israeli human rights violations.

Naseer Aruri, a prominent Palestinian-American writer and academician, said that he had declined an invitation to testify at the hearing when he learned that it would preclude Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I was told (by the Congress human rights committee) that the hearing will be focused solely on Palestinian human rights violations without probing Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights," Dr. Aruri, who is also a member of the Palestinian Commission for the Citizens' Rights told the Jordan Times.

"I had to decline the invitation since the aim was obviously to substantiate a campaign against financial aid to the Palestinians," the university professor, who has been consistently critical of the Palestinian

authority practices, said. Meanwhile, the National Association for Arab-Americans (NAAA), that groups the four strongest Arab-American organisations, has sent a memorandum to the head of the Congress human rights committee requesting that such hearings should not be confined to practices by Arab governments but should extend to include Israeli practices as well.

What made the hearings suspect, at least to Arab-Americans, was the fact that it followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington and the fact that Congress has rarely raised the question of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights. Furthermore, the Congress is known for its strong support for Israel.

Some analysts in Washington believe that the hearings were part of a campaign spurred by pro-Israeli American-Israeli Political Action Committee, the strongest pro-Israeli lobby that supports the Likud Party.

Human rights activists who testified at the hearings said the Congress committee members did not raise the issue of financial aid to the Palestinians.

It was noted, however, that the State Department did not send a representative to the hearings although it was invited to. The State Department has been in disagreement with the Republican-dominated Congress over the Middle East peace process and financial aid to the Palestinian authority.

Human rights experts argue that

the U.S. government, in all its branches has not been consistent in advocacy of its democracy in the Palestinian territories and its simultaneous support for Palestinian security measures.

In his testimony Mr. Stork pointed out that the U.S. has actually supported and welcomed the Palestinian authority's setting up of a state security court, a step that was widely criticised by Palestinian people and international human rights activists.

"Unfortunately the U.S. government not only failed but actually made a point of endorsing these courts, which flagrantly violate a range of internationally guaranteed due process rights, beginning with the right to a fair trial before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal."

Mr. Stork, a former editor of the respected Middle East Report on International Policy, cited a statement by U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore that he made after meeting with PNA President Yasser Arafat in Jericho on March 24, 1995. Mr. Gore had then said that the Palestinian security courts were "an important step forward in helping to build confidence in the peace process."

Representatives of human rights organisations concluded their testimony by urging the American Congress to scrutinise Israel's role in light of the considerable control that Israel continues to exercise over the daily lives of Palestinians in the self-rule areas and areas that are still under military occupation.

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